

THE GATEWAY

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2009

Reflections on the year



THE GATEWAY

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Students' Union Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2J7Telephone 780.492.5168
Fax 780.492.6665
Ad Inquiries 780.492.6700
Email gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca

editorialstaff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Mike Kendrick
eic@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.5168**MANAGING EDITOR** Nick Frost
managing@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6654**SENIOR NEWS EDITOR** Sean Steels
news@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7308**DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR** Jonathan Taves
deputynews@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6664**OPINION EDITOR** David Johnston
opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6661**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR** Sarah Stead
entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7052**SPORTS EDITOR** Evan Daum
sports@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6652**PHOTO EDITOR** Pete Yee
photo@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6648**DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR** Kelsey Tanasiuk
production@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6663**ONLINE EDITOR** Lucas Wagner
online@gateway.ualberta.ca | 248.1509

businessstaff

BUSINESS MANAGER Asia Szkudlarek
biz@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6669**AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE** Patrick Cziolek
sales@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6700**AD/GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Lisa Lunn
design@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6647**CIRCULATION PAL** Kristyn Springall
CIRCULATION PAL Brendan Fairbridge
circulation@gateway.ualberta.ca

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contributors

Simon Yackulic, Derek Schutz, Scott Fenwick, Ben Dextraze, Jonn Kmech, Wayne Simon, Laryssa Sznielsky, Carson Fong, Evan Mudryk, Joel Rackel, Nathan Liewicki, Emerson Csorba, Catherine Chuck, Doug Johnson, Jon Grier, Bruce Cinnamon, Gabby Riches, Lance Mudryk, Jason Luk, Ross Vincent, Isis Meleshko, Paul Swanson, Steffi Rosskopf, Claudine Champion, Sam Brooks, Lauren Stieglitz, Tyler Heal, Lisa Lin, Dan McKechnie, Adam Shepp, Aaron Yeo, Jeeshan Chowdhury, Krystina Sulatycki, Benjamin Nay, Ross Vincent

Good sex, emotional maturity linked

BEN DEXTRAZE
News Writer

Trouble in bed? According to a study at the University of Alberta, all that may be required for good sex is an attitude adjustment.

Andrea Dalton, who is completing her PhD in developmental psychology, used a small poll in the 2005/06 school year to uncover the truth behind freshman sex. Her research hoped to probe inside the sexual activity of a select portion of the student body, and postulate whether the emotionally mature students were having healthier sex lives.

"We recruited first-year University of Alberta students in 2005, and they filled out surveys every month for an entire academic year on a variety of behaviours and feelings," Dalton said.

For this, her master's thesis, Dalton compared the sexual behaviour of approximately 200 students — focusing on vaginal intercourse and oral sex — and then related their behaviour to the emotions they felt over the course of the school year. She then contrasted these findings with other markers in her study which related to the students' maturity levels.

Dalton discovered that more emotionally mature a sexually active student was, the more likely they were having positive sexual experiences.

"Students in the study, based on other questionnaires, were classified as 'genuinely mature,' meaning essentially that their maturity levels were appropriate for their age and developmental level; or 'immature,' meaning that they're behind in their development; or 'semi-mature', which essentially means that they have some indication of being psychologically ready for the demands of their age but also engaged in less mature behaviour," she explained.

The study found that mature students were experiencing a wider range



SUPPLIED

LIP LOCK Dalton used a scale of maturity from 'genuine' to 'immature' in her study.

of positive emotions on a regular basis, while the immature students, on the other hand, experienced a wider range of negative emotions and more frequently than the "genuinely mature."

The students polled in the study were from across all faculties and consisted of approximately 56 per cent women and 44 per cent men. But as Dalton noted, the results were surprisingly similar for both genders. For men, who have the stigma of being prone to engage in carefree casual sex, there was little variation in their emotional levels when contrasted against women polled in the survey.

"It looks like men and women are equally capable of having positive and negative experiences associated with their sexual behaviour, but it might be

a function of their attitudes towards it," Dalton said.

As the study took into account attitudes towards sexual activity, it negated the ability to measure what role gender could have played. Essentially, the study found that a permissive attitude towards sexual activity, no matter the gender, will lead to positive feelings both before and after sex — depending on how mature one is as a lover.

According to Dalton's study, for those who have a more liberal attitude towards expressing their sexual self, and are emotionally mature enough to do so, sex will most likely become a positive experience. But if sex is immaturity approached attitude, it could lead to conflicted, negative feelings once the deed is done.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Sean Steels and Pete Yee

As you may be aware, it is now a new year.

What resolutions have you set yourself for 2010?


**Garrett Boyda**
Arts IV**Casey Francisco**
Physiology III**Corey Telfer**
Linguistics I**Maegan Robinson-Anagor**
Psychology I

I want to be a better student, and at the same time not be a good student — I mean find balance in my life.

Saving money. I'll do it by packing lunches, planning accordingly. It saves money and is healthier in the long run.

None at all. I don't believe in resolutions. You can do that kind of thing at any time of the year. It just doesn't seem like a very intelligent thing to do.

Maybe to do better in school. Time management and less procrastination is my plan.



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from the archives

We've been doing this a while.

The rollover of this year's calendar doesn't just mark the turn of a new decade — 2010 also marks the 100th year of the Gateway's publication.

On November 21, 1910, a group of University of Alberta students got together in the home of Liddy Lloyd and conceived the idea of a student press for their school. Since then, the Gateway has been continually published (discounting a few summer breaks), and is now one of the oldest and largest student newspapers in Canada.

As the first of many features that will celebrate our heritage and inform our readers over the coming months, we've brought back "From the Archives" to look back at some of the more interesting and entertaining moments in the Gateway's — and the U of A's — history.

"Till HUB freezes over"

January 4, 1990

There's nothing like having no place to call home for the holidays. HUB International residents had to find somewhere else to stay after freeze-up problems over the Christmas break.

Forty-seven housing units were damaged to varying degrees when heating failed in the mall causing pipes to freeze, explained Tiffany Tsang, residence life coordinator with Housing and Foods Services.

The incident has been traced to Hair Stylistics, who happened to leave a window open, letting water into the building. As a result, water entered HUB's electrical room and caused the heat to fail ...

To read the full story and to explore our entire archive since 1910, check out thegatewayonline.ca/archives.

Huge events, elephants top city news

SEAN STEELS
Senior News Editor

CITY CENTRE AIRPORT CLOSURE

On July 8, City Council voted 10–3 in favour of phasing out usage of the City Centre Airport. Debate on the topic captured the city’s attention as advocates for keeping the airport locked proverbial horns with those against.

Eventually, arguments for the airports’ historical value and potential to expand services were overrun by the need to develop valuable land near the city’s core and reduce height restrictions on buildings downtown, densifying Edmonton’s urban core.

“If our community continues to avoid a decision, you are telling us to continue spending our time on a never-ending debate, one which fractures our community and pits us against each other,” Reg Milley, CEO of Edmonton Airports said.

EXPO 2017/UNIVERSIADE BIDS

2009 was a year to look to the future, as Edmonton bid to host two international events, Expo 2017 and the 2015 summer Universiade.

Although Edmonton lost its Universiade bid to Gwanju, South Korea, the city’s taste for infrastructure upgrade was whetted by the memory of sport facility construction from the summer games of ’83. The city has taken another run at hosting an international event in the form of

Expo 2017, a themed event to share knowledge and scientific invention on the world stage.

“I’m not saying we should do it, but we are one of the few places in the world where we could make Expo happen,” Alberta’s Culture Minister Lindsay Blackett said.

LUCY THE ELEPHANT

The international attention garnered by Lucy the elephant brought Bob Barker on down to appeal for her move from the Valley Zoo to a sanctuary in the United States.

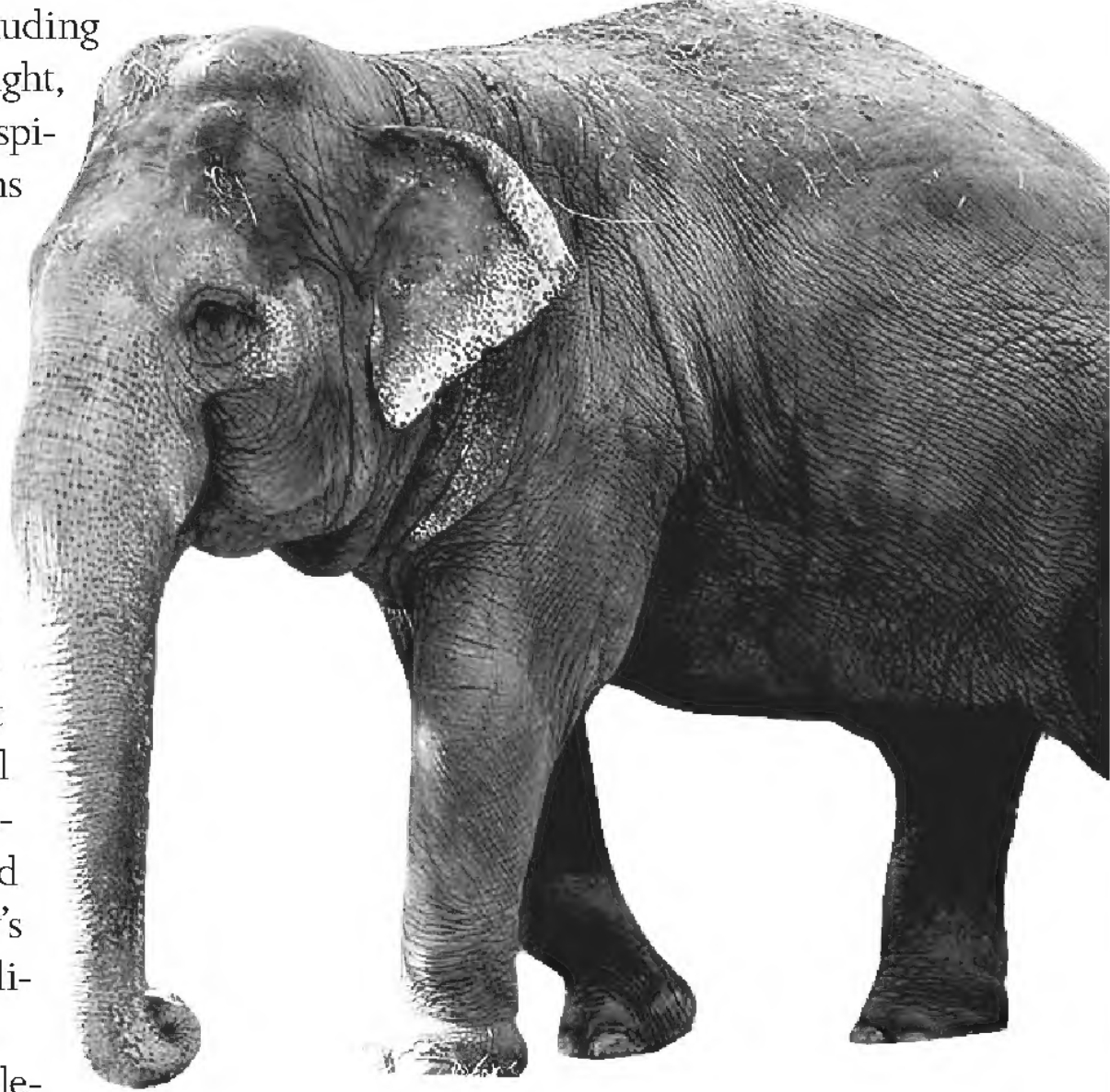
Lucy, now the only solitary zoo elephant in Canada, suffers from a list of ailments including being overweight, arthritis and respiratory problems in her trunk. Animal rights activists, citing elephants’ social nature, have long demanded Lucy’s move to a Tennessee sanctuary, but her medical team have adamantly refused it unless Lucy’s health conditions improve. “Bringing ele-

phants into zoos profoundly impairs their viability,” said Georgia Mason, an expert on animal behaviour at the University of Guelph.

GARNEAU REDEVELOPMENT

The Garneau Theatre received the designation of municipal historic resource in 2009. As a perk of this designation, the theatre has now begun an approximately \$3-million renovation to its exterior, with up to \$547,000 of the costs being covered by the city.

Built by architect William Blakely during World War II, the theatre is iconic of Edmonton’s Garneau district.



Samarasekera, \$59-million deficit most talked-about U of A topics during 2009

JONATHAN TAVES
Deputy News Editor

MONEY WOES

Money has been on the mind of University officials since March, as the U of A ran into some financial troubles in the form of a \$59-million deficit for the 2010/11 operating budget. The administration attributes the gap largely to reduced provincial natural gas revenue.

Tuition was a big issue on campus in 2009. The SU’s Restricted Access campaign last January failed to halt a 4.1 per cent increase to tuition for 2009/10. And as a result of next year’s funding shortage, tuition was again a hot topic after the administration proposed \$20 million of the deficit come from students.

A 1.5 per cent boost to tuition already approved for next year fits with the agreed increases compliant with the Canada Consumer Price Index. However, another possibility is the use of market modifiers that could see tuition for some faculties skyrocket by up to 66 per cent.

Such a drastic measure would require approval from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology, but indications are that the U of A plans to submit a request to increase above CPI. Mandatory non-instructional fees for students (an average \$500 per person) could also be a strategy to raise the funds.

To save money on staff expenses, six furlough days — unpaid days off for employees — have already been agreed to. The administration has promised that lay-offs will be considered only as a last resort.

“I want the University to come out of [the deficit] in a positive way, and I’m prepared to look at fair and reasonable proposals,” Minister of Advanced Education and Technology Doug Horner said.

HEALTH PLAN UNVEILED

U of A students received some peace of mind this year as the first Students’ Union health and dental plan available at the institution was implemented for a price of \$192 per person. The plan offers similar coverage to many other postsecondary institutions across the country.

The negotiated deal allowed the option of altering or opting out of the coverage — a move 37 per cent of students decided to take. Among the costs covered are vision, chiropractor, ambulance, and tuition insurance.

“I think, in talking to students, that this plan is going to help a lot of people that didn’t have coverage before, or they had coverage with their parents and didn’t have as good a coverage as this plan offers,” Vice President (Student Life) Nick Dehod said.

SAMARASEKERA MAKES WAVES

U of A President Indira Samarasekera was the central figure in a few more news stories than she might have liked in 2009. In March, her contract was renewed for another five years, but that was only the beginning of an eventful year. She came under fire after she advocated along with the presidents of Canada’s other “top five” universities for more graduate and research funding. Smaller institutions felt marginalized by the comments. Samarasekera argued a diverse system would keep Canada competitive.

Later in the year, a poster campaign drew much campus attention after Samarasekera made comments about lower levels of male enrolment, and said she would “be an advocate for young white men.”

A group dubbing themselves the “Samarasekera Response Team” put up posters satirizing the comments, only to find them abruptly taken down soon after. Members of the group faced disciplinary action from Campus

Security Services, but the charges were later dropped. Samarasekera addressed the issue in a campus-wide email following the controversy.

“Satire is a long-standing and accepted form of social commentary and protest. We in the academy must be very cognizant of respecting each other’s freedom of expression whether we agree with the message or not,” she said.

GETTING AROUND

Changes in transit altered the commutes of students both in 2009 and in years to come. In April, a southern expansion of the Light Rail Transit line opened to connect the North and South U of A campuses.

The change diverted a number of Edmonton Transit Service buses to the South Campus terminal. April 2010 will see the southern extension continue to Southgate and Century Park. Several other future expansions to the LRT were also posited in 2009.

City Council approved a plan to run the trains to West Edmonton Mall along Stony Plain Road, and different options are being considered for an expansion into the city’s southeast neighbourhood of Mill Woods. A proposal for northern expansion also gained momentum with stops at NAIT and Grant MacEwan University being priorities.

The ability of U of A students to use the new services was also solidified with a new U-Pass agreement. The SU has successfully negotiated a three-year extension of the program with ETS and City Council, which will be finalized pending approval by students in a March 2010 referendum.

“This pattern of development isn’t new; this isn’t a brave new idea. The only real mystery here is why Edmonton has yet to get it right,” Mayor Stephen Mandel said on LRT expansion.

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FACT:

84 per cent of people who make New Year’s resolutions commit to a new habit, compared to 16 per cent who vow to break one.

FACT:

You should make your new habit attending *Gateway* news meetings in 2010, and find out why 100 per cent of news writers would never even consider breaking their campus journalism addiction.



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Province sees big changes throughout 2009

SIMON YACKULIC
News Staff

WILDROSE PARTY BLOOMS

On October 17, Danielle Smith was elected leader of the Wildrose Alliance — Alberta's newest provincial party, currently represented in the legislature by a lone MLA. She warned the premier upon her successful election that change would be coming.

According to a poll between November 23 and 29, Smith's upstart party had surged past the governing Progressive Conservatives in popularity, with 39 per cent of those polled backing the Wildrose Alliance. The PCs were relegated to second place provincially, tied with the Liberals, who garnered 25 per cent support.

BILL 44 PASSED

Bill 44, a change to Alberta's Human Rights act, was developed to fix a gap in Alberta's human rights code that neglected to include "sexual orientation" in a list of grounds on which Albertans are protected from acts of discrimination.

Nevertheless, the changes proposed in Bill 44 — and subsequently passed into law on June 2 — went further than extending protection to the queer community. Section 11 of the amended act obligates teachers to provide notice in advance to parents whenever they teach classes that "include subject matter that deals explicitly with religion, sexuality, or sexual orientation" and gives parents the right to pull their children out of school without any penalty.

While supporters of the move emphasized parent's right to instruct their children in more controversial areas, the bill was not without detractors.



ALEX ABBOUD

GROWING LIKE A WEED Danielle Smith could be Alberta's next premier.

GRANT MAC BECOMES A UNIVERSITY

On September 3, Mount Royal College in Calgary officially became Mount Royal University. On September 24, Grant MacEwan College was quick to follow suit when Minister of Advanced Education and Technology Doug Horner granted the institution permission to call itself a University.

But according to authorities at Edmonton's newest and second university, the U of A will remain the city's primary centre of research.

"We're not embarking on becoming a research institution," remarked Eric Young, chairman of Grant MacEwan's Board of Governors.

VACCINATION CONSTERNATION

Starting October 26, the Alberta government rolled out an immunization plan to protect Albertans from the H1N1 virus. Albertans of all ages lined up for hours to be inoculated — however, confusion soon surfaced over who had priority.

The government later shut down the H1N1 clinics to the public and then re-opened them to vaccinate high-risk

groups first. The confusion resulted in long waits for some, only to be turned away at the front of the line.

ALBERTA FACES \$6.9-BILLION DEFICIT

The global economic crisis was blamed in August for slashing provincial natural resource revenue, as the government unveiled projections that Alberta faced a \$6.9-billion deficit.

"Global economic turmoil is deeper and more sustained, and natural gas prices remain far lower than originally forecast," argued Finance Minister Iris Evans.

The province was hit hard by falling energy royalties: where the April budget had been banking on reaping \$5.9 billion from non-renewable resources, the government announced that revenue from energy royalties was only at \$3.9 billion — a \$2-billion shortfall. This led the government to aim for significant cuts to public expenditures — by November 26, the government had already sliced \$430 million off the top and was aiming at trimming \$2 billion from the upcoming budget.

Harper, economy hold national spotlight

Followed closely by Governor General Michaëlle Jean animal rights controversy

SCOTT FENWICK
News Staff

CANADA IN \$55.9B DEFICIT

In the aftermath of 2008's coalition showdown with the opposition, the Federal Conservatives started the biggest government economic intervention since the Great Depression.

In January, the government introduced a budget calling for \$20 billion in personal income tax cuts and \$40 billion to prop up Canada's ailing economy. Although Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said in January that there would be no deficit, the budget was \$55.9 billion in the red by September.

Flaherty predicts that Canada will run a deficit until 2015. The announcements brought criticism from opposition parties, calling for Flaherty's resignation.

AFGHAN TORTURE CONTROVERSY

The federal government went on the defensive after Canadian diplomat Richard Colvin suggested that they

ignored warnings that the detainees they transferred to Afghan prisons were tortured.

Under criticism that the government ignored reports from Colvin, who served 18 months in Afghanistan, Defence Minister Peter MacKay suggested that his reports stemmed from Taliban propaganda.

The resulting controversy has led opposition MPs to suggest that the government's prorogation of Parliament, which shuts it down until March 3, is to stop further testimony on the issue.

COYOTES TAKEOVER BID FAILS

Jim Balsillie, CEO of Blackberry maker Research in Motion, stole headlines in 2009 with his attempted takeover of the NHL's Phoenix Coyotes.

The billionaire faced off against the NHL for a third time, who took him to court to oppose his plan to move the team to Hamilton, Ontario. Although Balsillie offered \$242 million for the team, far more than any other offer, an Arizona court ruled against him.

MEDIA STUNTS CATCH ATTENTION

Both Governor General Michaëlle Jean and Prime Minister Stephen Harper captured headlines for their out-of-character antics in 2009.

In May, Jean ate a raw seal heart in front of reporters when she travelled to Nunavut to participate in a traditional Inuit seal feast where a recently killed seal was being gutted. The action sparked protests from animal rights activists worldwide.

In October, Harper joined famed cellist Yo-Yo Ma on stage in Ottawa's National Arts Centre, singing and playing the Beatles' song "With a Little Help From My Friends" on the piano.

The appearance contrasted controversial comments he made about the arts in 2008, suggesting that Canadians don't sympathize with artists seeking funds to support such galas.

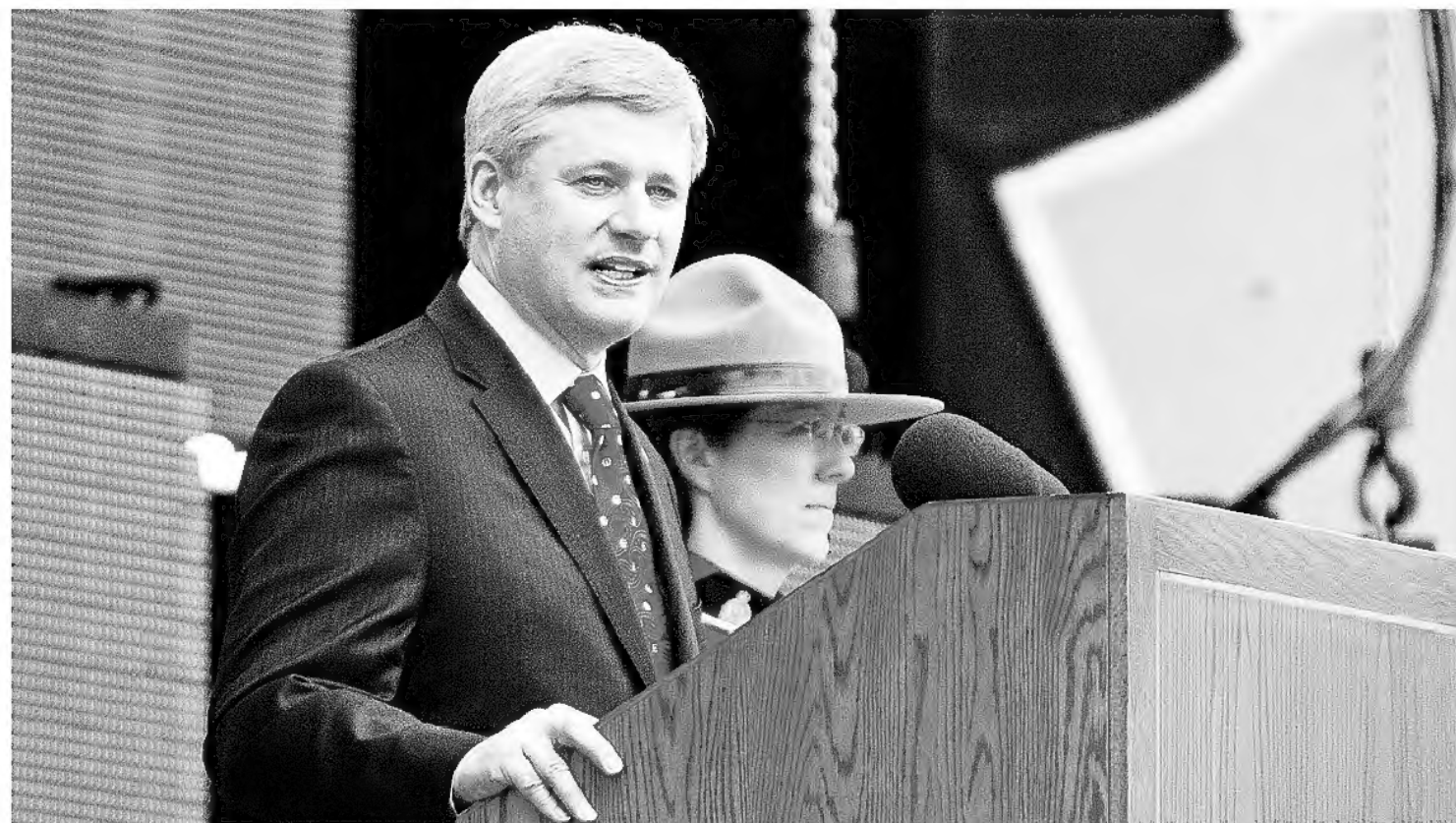
"I was just there singing a song [...] it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Harper said.

MR. HARPER GOES TO BEIJING

Stephen Harper visited China for the first time in December, nearly three years after becoming prime minister, marking a major change in relations between the two countries.

It was also the first prime minister's visit to China in five years. Canada-China relations cooled down in 2006 upon Harper's announcement that he would not sell out human rights for the "almighty dollar."

"Five years is too long a time for China-Canada relations, and that's why there are comments in the media that your visit is one that should have taken place earlier," Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said when meeting Harper.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

HIDDEN TALENTS Harper's performance in October shocked the artistic world.

WARM UP TO WINTER



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JAN 14-24 ICE ON WHYTE FESTIVAL
Mon-Fri 2-10pm, Sat & Sun 10am-10pm
Old Strathcona
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JAN 22-23 BABA YAGA Trail Adventure
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International headlines filled with stories of promise amidst despair

DEREK SCHUTZ
News Staff

BARACK OBAMA INAUGURATED

Barack Obama was a central figure of 2009 as the world watched him enact new American policy. Obama's historic inauguration in January as the first black president was soon followed by record spending in the form of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Throughout the year, Obama also submitted a nomination for a new Supreme Court Justice, announced the reinforcement of 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan, and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

IRANIAN DEMOCRATIC PROTESTS

Iran began to dominate headlines this year as candidates for June's presidential election, including the incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, battled for endorsements and public favour. However, Iran soon garnered a much broader spotlight as supporters of opposition leaders took to the streets to protest what they saw as election fraud when Ahmadinejad was re-elected.

Protests continued sporadically with a greater and more violent response from pro-government forces. Thousands of arrests were made, and many deaths have been blamed on government forces, most recently when eight protestors were killed, including the nephew of the main opposition leader, Mir-Hossein Mousavi.

H1N1 SPREADS ACROSS THE WORLD

Beginning with an initial scare in the spring, the H1N1 virus and its tragic

effects received considerable attention in the news of 2009. Initially dubbed the "swine flu," the virus' first wave prompted varied action, from the killing of all pigs in Egypt to travel bans to Mexico — the supposed epicentre of the virus.

After the classification of the virus as a pandemic by the World Health Organization and a period of relative calm during the summer, the story regained prominence in the fall as vaccine shortages and virus-related deaths came to light. It's been declared the cause of over 12,000 deaths, and governments are still uncertain about proper containment strategies.

ECONOMY ON THE RECOVERY

The economy dominated headlines throughout the year as governments around the world spent billions combating unemployment and bank failures. By spring, analysts were seeing "green shoots" as stock prices in the world's major markets began to climb again after reaching historic lows during the winter.

However, stock prices weren't the only thing to grow, as U.S. unemployment rose steadily to almost 10 per cent in June. But this was not mirrored in emerging economies, as Brazil, Russia, India, and China saw only slowed growth or limited decline at worst. Nevertheless, the recession of 2009 affected economies, and consequently many lives, around the world.

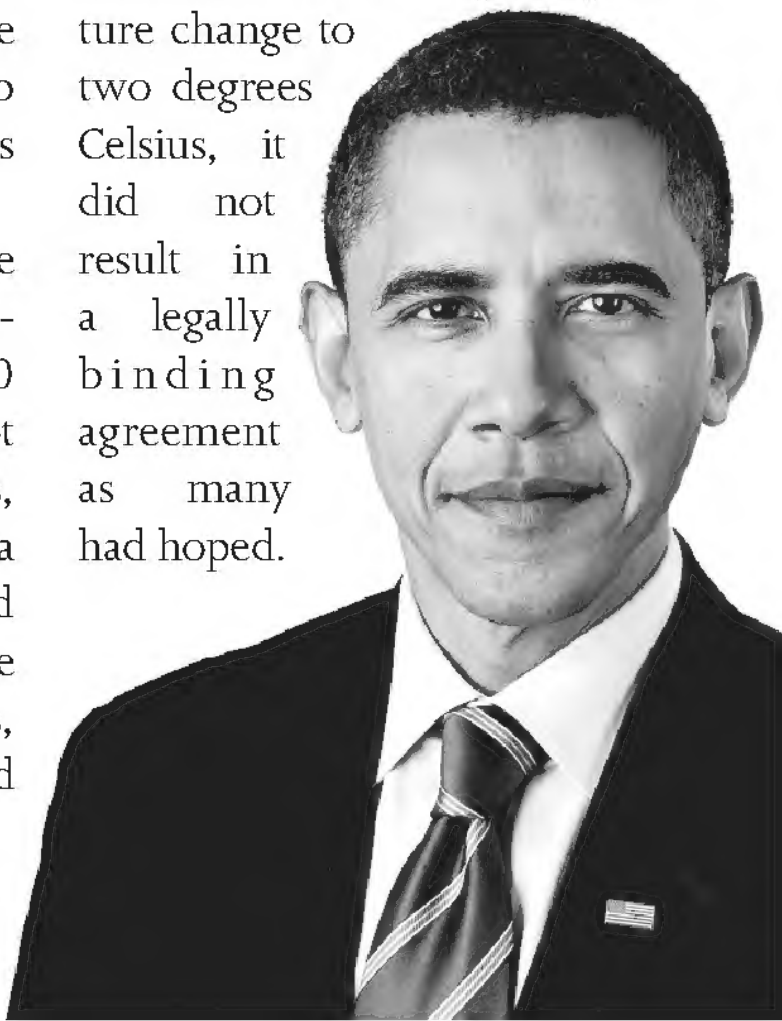
"Never before in modern times has so much of the world been simultaneously hit by a confluence of

economic and financial turmoil such as we are now living through," U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said.

THE WORLD WATCHES COPENHAGEN

While it was overshadowed for much of the year by economic concerns, the environment resulted in some surprising stories ultimately culminating in the international Copenhagen Summit in December. Among these was the increased melting of the Arctic icecap as well as the so-called "Climategate" — stolen emails that reveal some data was left out of climate change calculations.

The Copenhagen Summit, the successor to the Kyoto Protocol, allowed developed and developing nations struggled to agree on strategies and targets for carbon reduction. While the Summit resulted in governments agreeing to try to keep temperature change to two degrees Celsius, it did not result in a legally binding agreement as many had hoped.



BEST OF CAMPUS CRIME BEAT 2009

Compiled by Lucas Wagner

BREAK IN CASE OF DRUNKENNESS

At 1 a.m. on March 27, Campus 5-0 was called to Lister after a drunk student punched a glass fire extinguisher case. He had shards of glass stuck in his hand and was driven to the hospital for treatment. An hour later he was back, untreated and unhappy with having to wait. He was again taken to the hospital, this time with a friend to keep him there.

THAT'S 500 POINTS IN GTA

On the evening of May 31, Campus Security received a report of a vehicular collision on Saskatchewan Drive, just north of the Biological Sciences building. Officers arrived on scene, along with Edmonton Police, to find a Jeep resting on the courtyard of the Biological Sciences Building. The driver of the Jeep was believed to be under the influence of drugs. He had apparently fallen asleep behind the wheel. His vehicle collided with a parked car on the side of the road, jumped over the curb, and tore two parking meters from their moorings before stopping. No individuals were injured in the incident.

STRONG FOR A GLASS JAW

On the evening of June 11, CSS received a report of a male attempting to smash the glass on the front doors of Newton Place. CSS attended and identified the male as a current U of A student. He was in the company of his girlfriend

and the two had just had a fight; the male punched the window because he was angry. Code of Student Behaviour charges are pending.

STAFFSASS

Around noon on July 15, a bike unit officer initiated a traffic stop with a vehicle that was driving left of centre. The driver rolled down his window and told the officer to "fuck off" before speeding away. The vehicle licence plate came back to a University staff member and the driver will be issued a provincial tag for failing to stop for a peace officer.

ROOFTOP REEFER

On the morning of July 21, CSS officers noticed a smell of marijuana coming into the CSS office in Education Car Park. A check of CCTV on the car park roof showed a male smoking beside the fresh air intake vent. The male was stopped by officers and produced a container of 10 joints. The male was identified as a University employee who was supposed to be on duty. His supervisor was contacted and the male was sent home from work.

LOTION COMMOTION

At midnight on 28 March, Lister staff reported that a resident's room had been ransacked. One occupant had left for the evening with his roommate still inside, and upon returning found hand lotion squirted all over the room, his bed flipped over, and food strewn about the room. Nothing was stolen.

THAT'S NOT FOR YOU

At 9 p.m. on 5 March, CSS received reports of a homeless man crashing the deli table at a private function in the Timms Centre. He was told by the event organizers to leave but shoved them away and helped himself. By the time 5-0 arrived he had left the reception.

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Time for a quick mid-term review

WHILE JANUARY MARKS THE DAWN OF BOTH a new year and a new decade for the world at large, it's only the halfway mark for everyone on campus, including our Students' Union. And while I've generally taken a critical point of view of our student government so far this year, after taking a look back over the past semester, it turns out that there's actually quite a bit they've done right.

Take Zach Fentiman's operations and finance portfolio, for instance. This summer's Room at the Top renovations, while slightly delayed, turned the mediocre campus bar into a nicer-looking mediocre campus bar — plus, it's possible to put tables together without needing a degree in advanced circular geometry. More surprising, however, was the success of the SU's other campus pub. Against all odds, the VP OpsFi managed to turn Dewey's around from the brink of closure to a successful place of business — in this case, I define "successful" as "I haven't been able to find a free table over half the afternoons I've been there." Whether this success is due to the pool tables, the partnership with the Graduate Students' Association, or the fact that nearly everyone's forgotten about the Powerplant's past problems is anyone's guess, but what matters is that it's finally on the road to generating money to support student services.

Speaking of student services, 2009 was also a great year for the Vice President (Student Life) Nick Dehod. While many students — including myself — were skeptical about the execution of the new SU Health Plan, everything ran surprisingly smoothly in the end. The online opt-out period went by without much complaint, and while Gateway Opinion Editor David Johnston hasn't managed to bankrupt the SU yet with his Operation: Wealth Care scheme, it certainly hasn't been for lack of trying.

Dehod has also been involved in laying important groundwork for the future of the portfolio. One of the major initiatives this year in this regard has been the PAC/PAHC/PAWC/Baron Von Squats-a-Lot's Workout Palace; whatever its name, the project's aim is to create a new physical activity centre on campus. From the various reports made to Students' Council, it appears that unlike failed past initiatives with similar goals, the SU finally has a concrete plan for a great student-oriented recreation centre. In shorter-term goals, the Campus Cup dodgeball tournament is a go for February; one of the Dehod's campaign promises, it looks to be an exciting event.

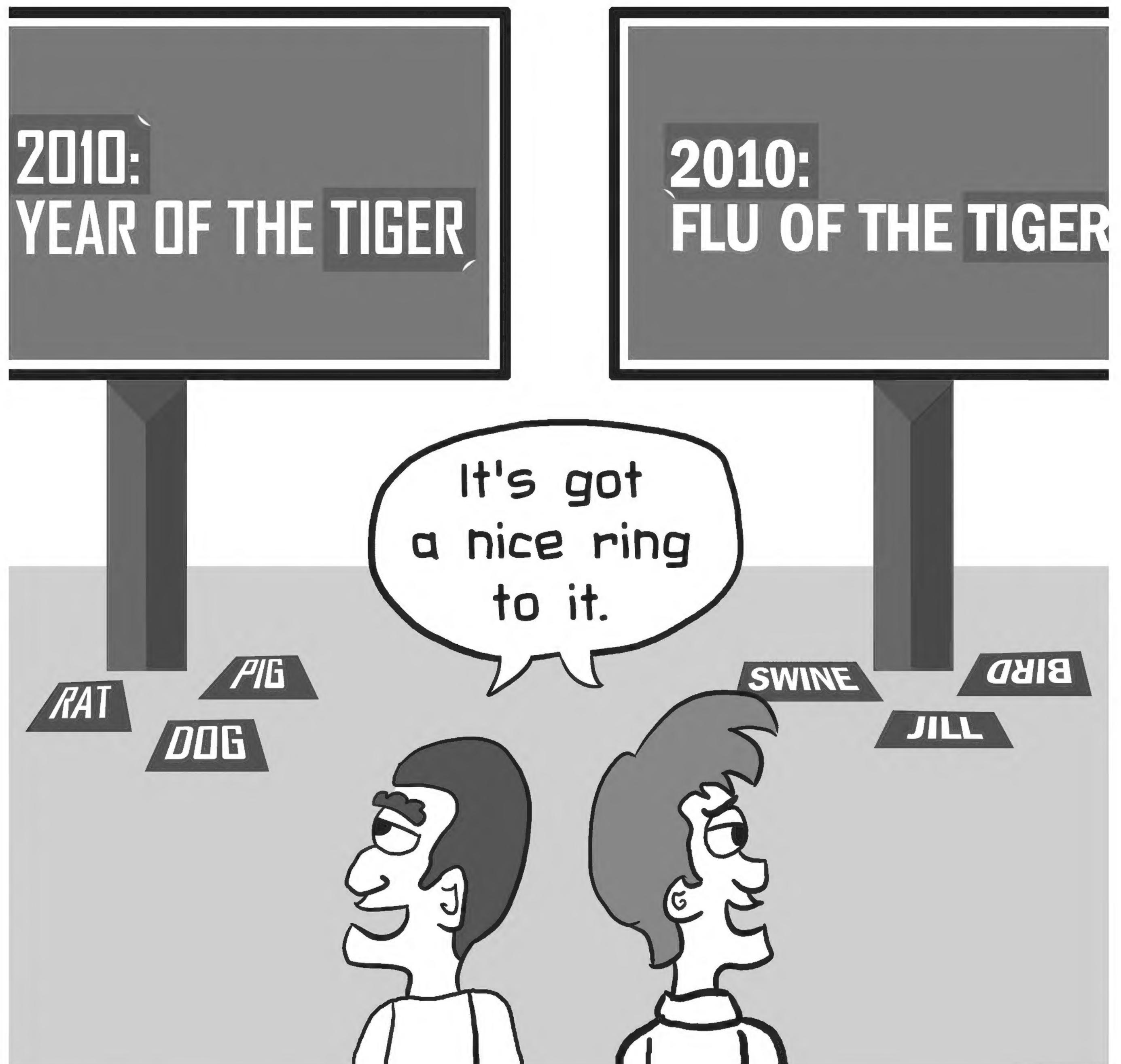
While the VPOF and the VPSL have had the most publicly active projects, that's not to say the other vice presidents have exactly been slacking on the job. Academic vice prez Leah Trueblood put forward an impressive submission to the University's Academic Plan, one that put emphasis on involving undergrads in all levels of the U of A, with an increased focus on undergraduate research. There's also been work done to promote the Academic portfolio to the SU's constituents, with the new "Fridays with the VPA" event at Dewey's.

And in Beverly Eastham's External corner, well, our membership in CASA is starting to pay off on a visible level: the recent National Student Survey is continuing in the fine tradition of online surveys offered by our Students' Union. As a statistics nerd, I'm all for the mass collection of data about the student experience and spreading it around effectively.

Of course, this year hasn't been without its disappointments for the SU. The Board of Governors' tuition increase vote being moved up to December (as opposed to the traditional late January) represented a lost opportunity for our executives to yell into megaphones and hand out free scarves in order to combat the tuition hike. In fact, there haven't been any major advocacy campaigns this year — apart from the continuation of Be Booksmart, the effort to lower textbook prices — and whether that's due to them dropping the ball or a simple lack of things to be outraged about is beyond my knowledge.

All things considered, however, our Students' Union Executive have done a pretty decent job in 2009. What's to come in 2010 is still a mystery, but I wish them the best of luck in the remaining four months ahead. After all, we're students here at the Gateway, and thus members of the Union — it's in our best interests to see them succeed, and continue to improve the undergraduate experience here at the U of A.

LUCAS WAGNER
Online Editor



LANCE MUDRYK

letters TO THE eds

Arts vs. Business — a multi-decade skirmish

In reference to Business students signing an ethics oath, I think this is a good sign for the future. The idea behind the ethics oath is a sincere gesture of commitment to moral values. The snickering around campus at the idea of business and ethics being compatible is caused by the discrepancy between business inside the school and business outside the school. Within the University of Alberta, Business students promote good causes, help charities, and sign ethics oaths. Outside the school, the average person's perception of business is influenced by stories of corruption, exploited resources, scab workers, environmental destruction, and giant bonuses to CEO's.

Godwin Doo's response, as a letter published on November 24, to an attack on Business students' moral fortitude is very precise in its explanation of the theory behind business — it's two parties making a mutually beneficial exchange. He does, however, fail to mention the role of third party members, who do not benefit from the transaction but are affected nonetheless. Does outsourcing to developing nations and paying a pittance to desperately hungry people count as ethical? Companies don't make the world a better place by strip mining the vast tracts of land, and

then leaving the taxpayers to clean up the mess. Products and materials aren't made from nothing; something has to be consumed to be produced. Too often, the people profiting and consuming are unaware of the negative impact their actions have.

The definition of capitalism Doo offered in his letter fails to mention what exactly drives capitalism. It is driven by the desires of both the producers and the consumers. The definition of greed is "an excessive desire, esp. for wealth..." Would anyone argue that someone who makes the decision to abandon mining sites is not motivated by greed? The benefits to shareholders does not undo the damage done to the people living in the area.

Untested theories and ideas about the practice of business sound great. Once they are put into practice, however, unforeseen problems arise. What is supposed to be a very ethical transaction can actually hurt many people.

BOBBY MANN
Fine Arts IV

from THE web

Where credit is [not] due

RE: "Student's website to reinstate credit card tuition payments" (November 25)

Yes, credit cards are ideally convenient. I originally was among the student population who was slightly

annoyed when the University announced the removal of paying by credit card. Since the implementation of this policy, I've come to realize that I'm not inconvenienced in the least. With the vast amount of payment options available, credit cards prove to be no more advantageous than the rest. Why not skip a step of paying University fees on your credit card, then transferring funds to pay off the credit card bill and just use online direct billing to the University of Alberta? Simple and easy. I do support what Pay4u is trying to achieve by providing more options to the student body, but find the potential risk and costs associated to be an unnecessary expense.

STEPHANIE REEVES
via Internet

Language gauging and language gouging

RE: "The Burlap Sack" (November 25)

Bruce Cinnamon is a man of wisdom. May we please put him in the Supreme Court of Canada? We need people like him and the rest of Canada to help us save our children from the extreme PQ language zealots. This has gone on for way too long and the PQ has no limits to their lunacy.

The only thing that is distinct about the PQ is their self-entitled grandiosity and omnipresent rationalization and justification to forgo basic human rights to preserve their French language, with no concern for the futures of their children. To do this within a so-called

democratic Canada is ever more distressing, when the highest court acknowledges the infringement of basic human rights, but leaves the law in effect for another year. This way, the Quebec government can manipulate the Bill 104 to maintain the denial of access to English education, but word it so the denial of rights is not so blatant. English is still an official language of Canada. Quebec is still in Canada and until it officially separates, the laws of democratic Canada should protect all its Canadian children within its borders, even in Quebec.

'FRANZ09'
via Internet

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca or delivered via paper aeroplane to SUB 3-04. Website comments may occasionally be printed. Like today, when everyone was probably too busy worrying about the new semester to write in or something. Whatever the excuse is, I don't want it for a minute, so keep those letters flowing, people!

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication. Grammar is also very much appreciated. I'm not a bloody thesaurus, people.



KELSEY TANASIUK

WEIGH OUT Isn't there any way to tip the scales in favor of a non-conservative government? Perhaps through teamwork.

United, they'd stand a chance to succeed



ROSS VINCENT

Seems the persistent Progressive Conservative monopoly on the Alberta government for nearly the last four decades has made politics in this province stagnant, one-sided, and democratically unhealthy. This is in no small part due to the lack of a single viable opposition party, in lieu for which we have a handful of ineffectual parties splitting the vote and diluting the voices of disagreement. To remedy this, I prescribe that Alberta's left-leaning parties should amalgamate under a fresh new banner to create a somewhat American two-party system, and finally give voters a realistic contender for the legislature.

Regardless of where they lie on the political spectrum, politicians as a rule act in their own self-interest. Their livelihood ultimately depends on getting elected, not necessarily on carrying out the electorate's wishes, and career advancement is the gift of the party, not the people. A politician is no more on your side than the used-car salesman who knew you were a smart guy the moment you walked in. The only leverage we have over our elected representatives is that we can vote them in or out of office every few years. Therefore, the only way to ensure they work in our interest is to keep them in constant fear for their jobs.

In a way, this is what the official Opposition is for. Granted, for the most part, the Opposition, whether federal or provincial, appear only to denounce loudly anything the governing party says or does. But it's important to remember they do serve two very important functions: to give voice to dissenting views and to demonstrate that should the party in power fail to satisfy the public, there's another one standing by to take its place.

Despite many Albertans being dissatisfied with the current government, voter turnout is low and PC candidates are guaranteed election in most ridings.

Unfortunately, Alberta's so-called Opposition is laughably pathetic, and has been for a long time now. Unlike in the two-party system of the U.S., where if one doesn't like the Republican they vote for the Democrat or vice-versa, Albertans who don't like the PCs split their votes largely among the Liberals and NDP, or simply judge it hopeless and succumb to apathy. As such, a vast PC majority is a forgone conclusion come every election, and we of collegiate age have never known a time when this wasn't the case. Despite many Albertans being dissatisfied with the current government, students being not the least among

them, voter turnout is low and PC candidates are guaranteed election in most ridings. Without a significant threat to their seats, it's no wonder the Conservatives feel they can do as they please with our health and education systems.

How can we solve this problem? Rhetorical questions, perhaps? My idea, unoriginal though it may be, is for the Liberals, NDP, and yes, perhaps even the Greens, to unite as a completely new party, with the aim of creating a *de facto* two-party system. It could be called the Labour Party, something to-the-point that will resonate with Alberta's working folk. Such a bold move would certainly liven up Alberta's political scene, generating new interest and maybe even increasing voter turnout at the polls. Non-voters might be shaken from their apathy, as those who are dissatisfied with the current government could pour all their votes into a single challenger. A unified left would no doubt unsettle the complacent PCs, and give us the one thing we've been lacking for an effective democracy — a viable opposition.

I can't begin to imagine the difficulties inherent in this scheme, but amalgamation is the only way that I can see in which the present opposition parties will ever have a decent shot at running this province. I don't mean to seem ignorant of the differences between them, but as things stand, we really don't need choices — we need a bunch of guys who aren't the other guys. Only when we have a balanced political system can we be sure that our government, whoever it may be, is working in our interests, or at the very least not wrecking things as much.

JASON LUK

The Marble Pedestal is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who does something particularly noteworthy and awesome is elevated temporarily to a pedestal of prose and praised. No actual enshrinements are performed.

THE MARBLE PEDESTAL

With the new year in full swing, I have resolved to become a better person. Don't get me wrong, though — I still believe anyone with a point of view that does not exactly match my own should be destroyed immediately. However, I am making an effort to give credit where credit is due. That is why I would like to start 2010 by giving credit to the assholes pushing the "Climategate" issue in environmental circles.

For those of you who are unaware of Climategate, let me put it into perspective for you, as if you were four years old. Scientists study something called

climate change and climate change is bad. But, some angry people have stolen personal emails which show that scientists are actually bad guys who have spent their entire lives trying to poop on science. Finally, whenever stupid people want you to pee your pants in fear, they make up a word that ends in "gate," because gates are evil. Everyone got that? Good.

Despite the fact that some of the out-of-context email quotes widely distributed by these bastards have slowed the progress of mankind, the new and improved me sees the huge potential to personally benefit. The startling lack of progress on my research at work can now be blamed on the need for due diligence, to prevent any chance of Climategate happening again, as opposed to "alcoholism." My refusal to

respond to my supervisors' increasingly angry emails is now out of precaution, in case my account is hacked, no longer because I'm a douche. I mean, I still am, but it's not to blame any more.

For becoming the scapegoat that allows severely deficient scientists all around the world to prosper, I encourage slackers of all stripes to help me hoist the Climategate pricks onto the Marble Pedestal. We can push them off later.

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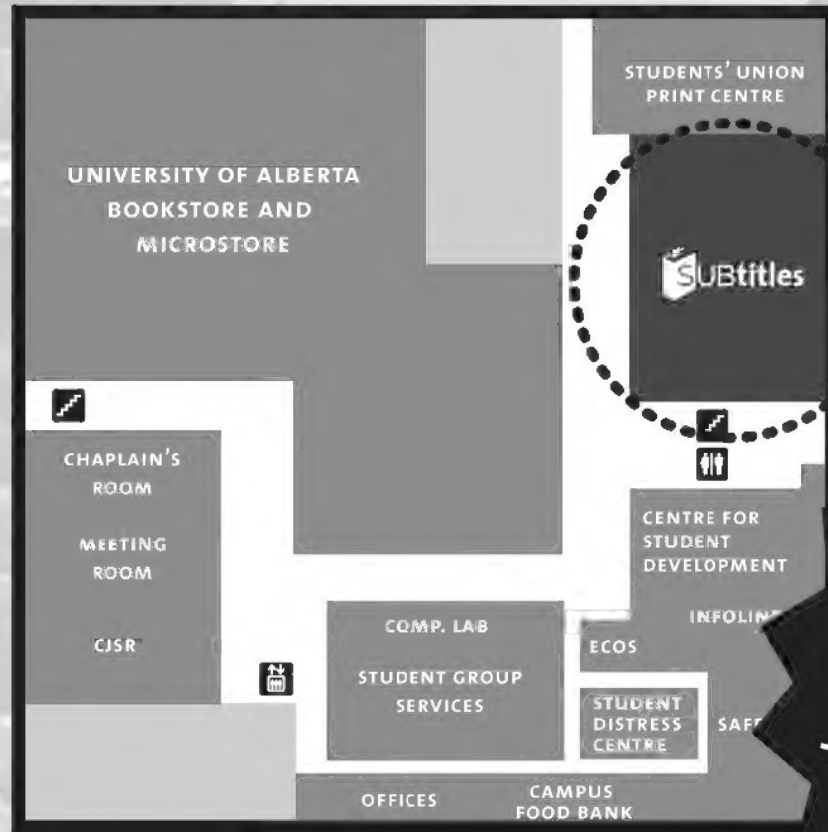
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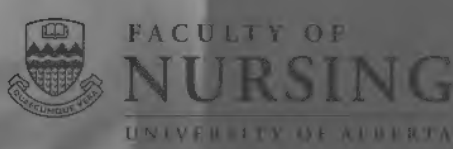
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Experiencing the many highs and lows of resolutions

I resolve to never fall into the commercial pratfalls associated with New Year's resolutions, effectively rendering them moot



BRUCE
CINNAMON

point

At the start of every year, people come together in droves to celebrate the commencement of a fresh, new, hopeful existence. And two weeks into every year, they're once again stressed, depressed, and wishing for a chance to start over. Making the same resolutions year after year, they briefly wonder what went wrong, before vowing to do better 11 months later. This is the evil and damning practice of the New Year's resolution.

Resolutions fail because people are weak. Any significant change in lifestyle or dramatic reversal of action requires a great deal of strength of will. Unfortunately, the kind of people who have the requisite will to achieve rarely practice New Year's resolutions, primarily because they have nothing too extravagant to correct in their lives, but also because they have already changed their ways immediately upon noticing their shortcoming, no matter the time of year. Weaker people inevitably buy in to New Year's resolutions — they need to be reminded that change is necessary, convinced that the time is ripe, rather than actively creating and maintaining a goal. Unfortunately for this kind of person, the act of declaring a resolution seems an adequate substitute for actually accomplishing it.

Not that it's entirely the fault of the resolver — New Year's resolutions in themselves encourage procrastination and failure. As early on as September, many people will delay their goals and plans for a "fresh start" in order for them to coincide with the new year. This attitude of sacrificing the opportunity of the present to some vague, unknown future is troublingly

common. Placing so much importance on an arbitrary date and building up their expectations over months only compounds people's self-derision and shame when they fail. The fact that the declaration of a new year *itself* is meaningless, as nothing more than an arbitrary switch in number, doesn't seem to dissuade their procrastination.

Resolutions are largely a commercial practice (like the entire holiday season itself, some might say). The most thoroughly publicized resolution is that of physical self-perfection. You've been fat, lazy, and unhealthy all year? No problem — now is the time that you can finally be the beautiful person you want to be! In fact, the entire establishment of New Year's resolutions seems to be a weight loss gimmick. It's a well documented and widely remarked-upon statistic that gym membership rises astronomically in January, only to fall again by March. Now, not only are we encouraged to announce a resolution; we are also provided with a bodily checklist of things we should strive to accomplish, with Taylor Lautner-esque abs or a Jessica Alba ass right at the top.

Ultimately, New Year's resolutions, as we have come to know them, fail because their philosophical foundation is flawed. The primary cause of these resolutions, and the basic tool for their continued enforcement, is and always has been guilt — guilt about one's state of body or mind, guilt about one's previous actions, and guilt that one cannot live up to his or her own expectations. Guilt, rather than hopeful anticipation, dominates the spirit of the new year, where every slip in a resolution feels like a self-betrayal, and re-affirms feelings of self-doubt and worthlessness. This year could be another step in that cycle, but save your resolutions for your isolated moments where they can be quiet, personal decisions, not enforced due to a specific time of year, nor so brazenly unrealistic that they're impossible to accomplish. Then, perhaps, unlike the prison-sentence resolutions of the new year, they can be founded in an honest, eager effort to achieve.

Well, I resolve to keep making resolutions, but force them to be at least partially attainable, even if it means they're nontraditional



DAVID
JOHNSTON

counterpoint

I've never been a big fan of checklist-style resolutions where one swears to lose 10 pounds by April or to stop smoking cold turkey. As is obvious, they tend to lead to unrealistic expectations and force people to conform to arbitrary expectations that might not be attainable once the calendar flips by a few months. But I can't deny that there's something to be said for pausing at the start of a new year — or a new decade, even — and taking stock of where we're at in life, and what needs to be changed to get into a better place.

It's important to not conflate the concept of New Year's resolutions as a *product*, rather than a *process*. In order to effectively affect a life, a resolution must not be an enforced platitude with nothing other than a brief spark to sustain it, but rather more of a mantra that can exist as an undercurrent to your daily existence.

I'd be remiss and hypocritical if I wasn't able to put my money where my mouth is. And truth be told, I never used to make resolutions, as they were always a glimmer of collapsed hopes and dreams by the time we reached February. But in recent years, I've started making actual honest resolutions with myself on December 31 — here are some ideal goals, not necessarily one shot only. I'd never resolve to stop eating chocolate, say. All it would take is the temptation of one Oreo cookie to brand me a failure, and then for the next 364 days I'd be left tongue tied and twisted as to how to tell myself to improve. But simply telling yourself that this year, you'd like to eat healthier — hey, that's less stressful, more

of a possible achievement, and could actually be accomplishable. Also, certain types of chocolate are healthy. That's what I keep telling myself, at least.

Of course there's an arbitrariness to the whole concept. Why January 1? What's so special about a random midwinter night to decide to change your life? But so much of life is equally arbitrary — days of the week, holidays, birthdays, top ten lists — the vast majority of human decisions have at least some degree of subjective choosing behind them — why, "never New Year!" is a pretty arbitrary complaint anyways. Besides, I don't want to advocate whimsical pointlessness to improve our future. Resolutions are a serious business.

It seems to me that resolutions can only be effectively undertaken if there's no fear of failure. It's never the end of the world if you don't hit your ideal self by the next NYE — there's another year, after all. But fear of failure, coupled with unrealistic expectations as to what should be stated therein has really given the concept of resolutions a bad name. Of *course* my abs are never going to be as chiselled as Taylor Lautner — I don't have the body type, nor do I have the time to eat and exercise to the degree I'd need to. But I don't think there's anything wrong with a general "I'd like to improve my abs"-type resolution, which is why I made one this year. And in fact, there's nothing wrong visions of a hot teenage werewolf actor running through my head as long as I'm honest that that's an ideal — nothing to beat myself up over it if I don't achieve, just something to strive for. If you want, say it drives my pain, but I do it again and again each year, and it hasn't started slowing me down yet.

After all, in the end, we're the only ones who can change ourselves — not for society, not for friends, not for family, but us alone. And resolutions, when functioning as a reunion where we take a moment to be honest with ourselves about our hopes and personal expectations? Then they actually do stand a chance at changing our lives. Who'dathunkit?

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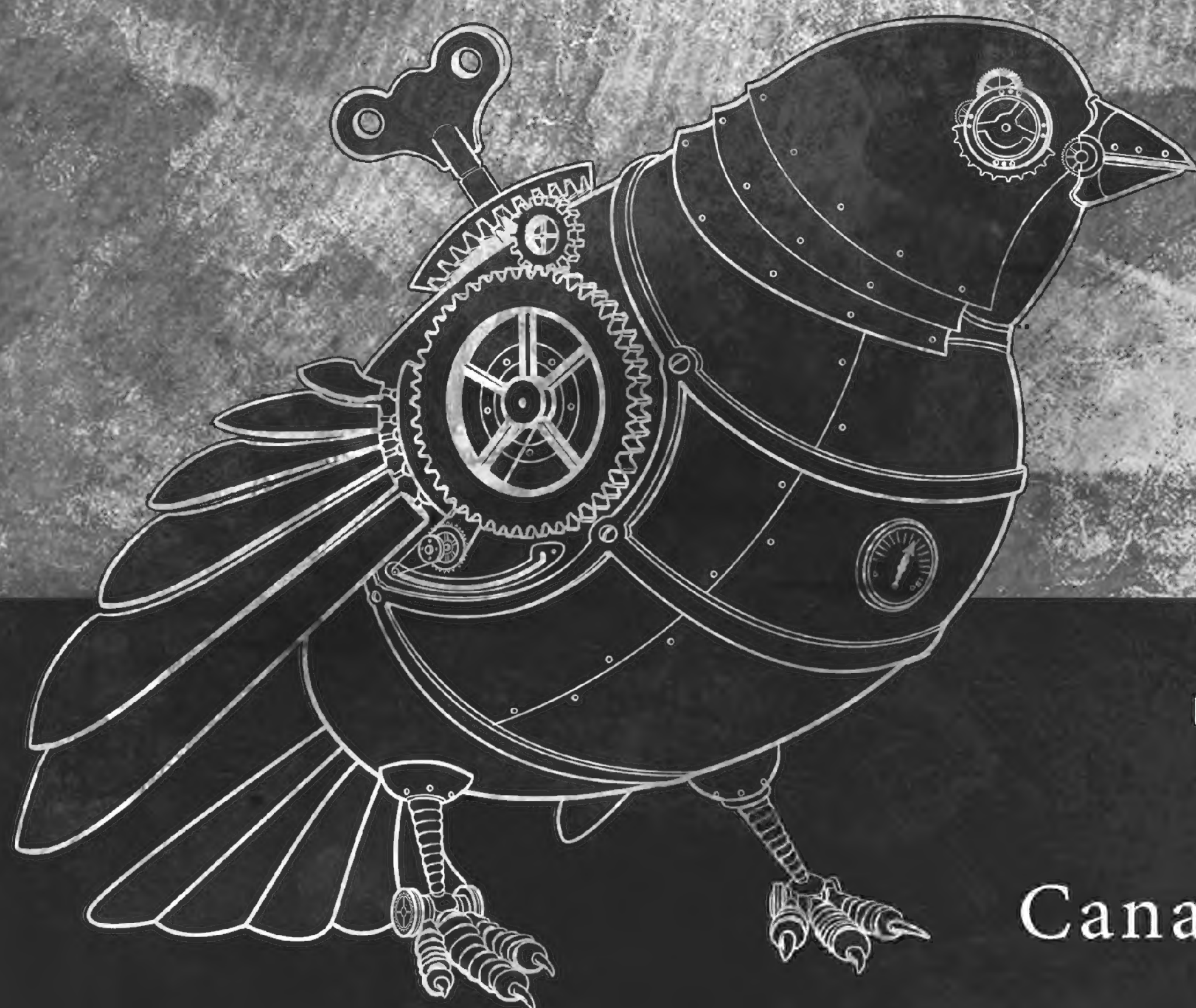
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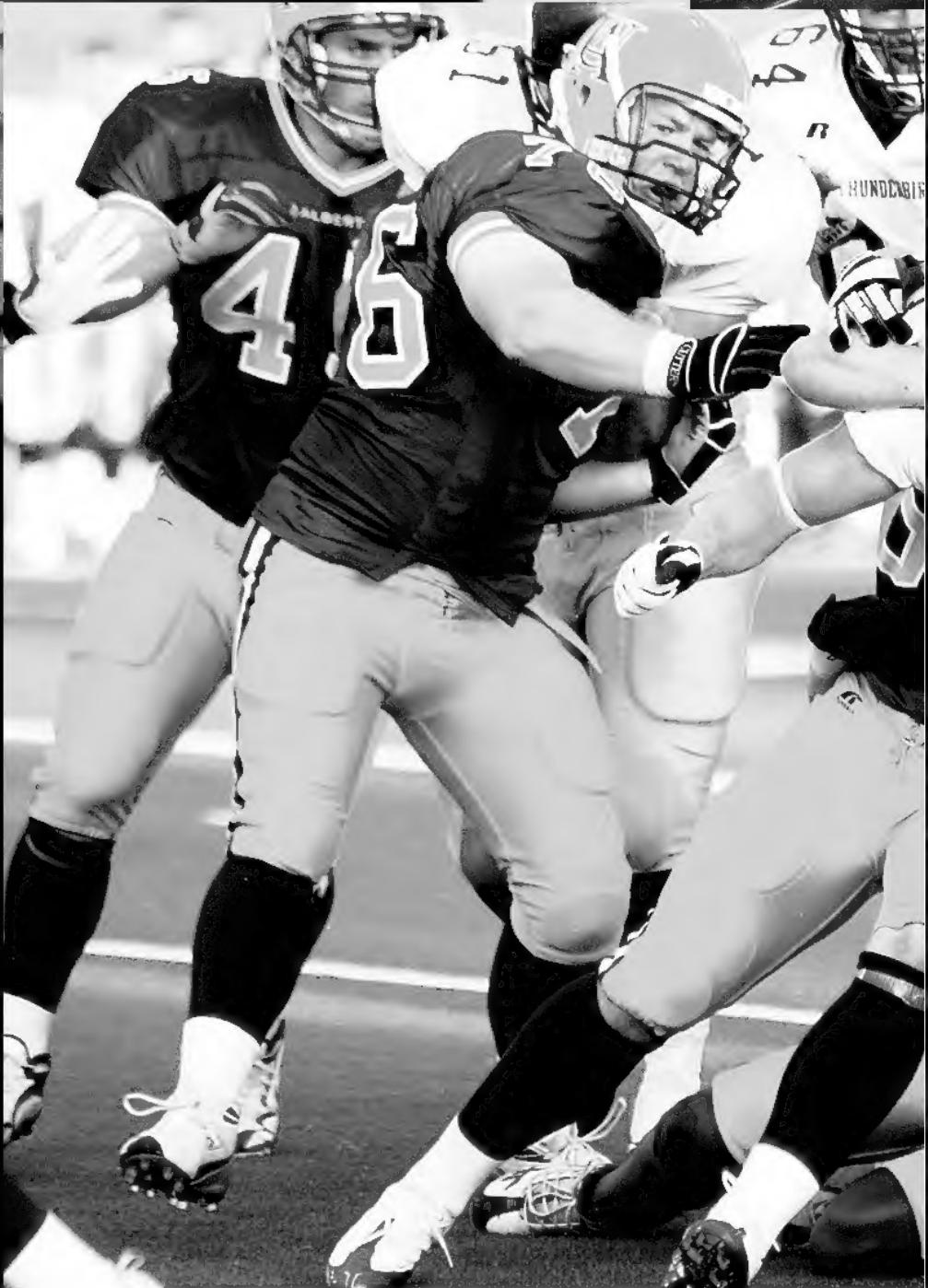
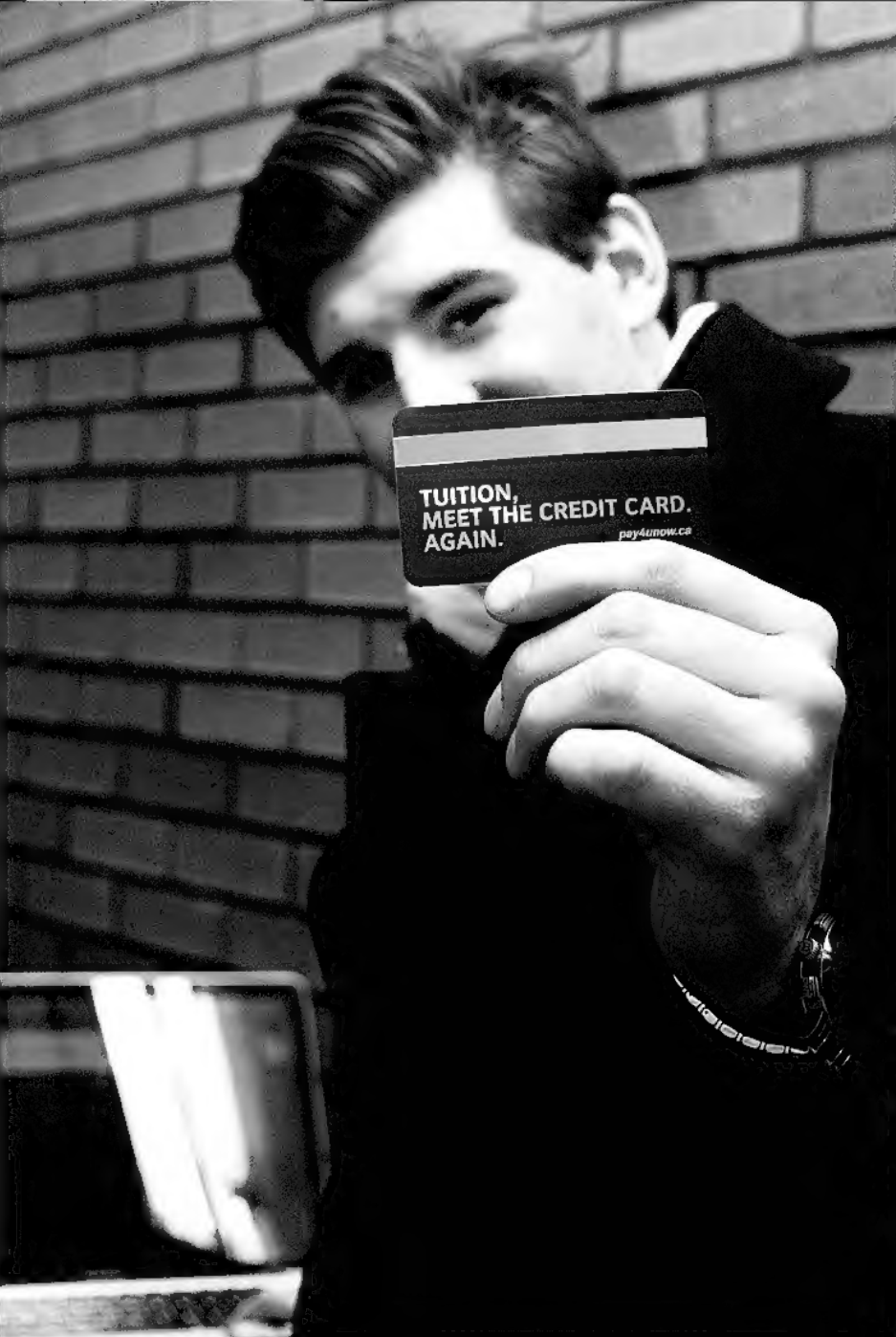


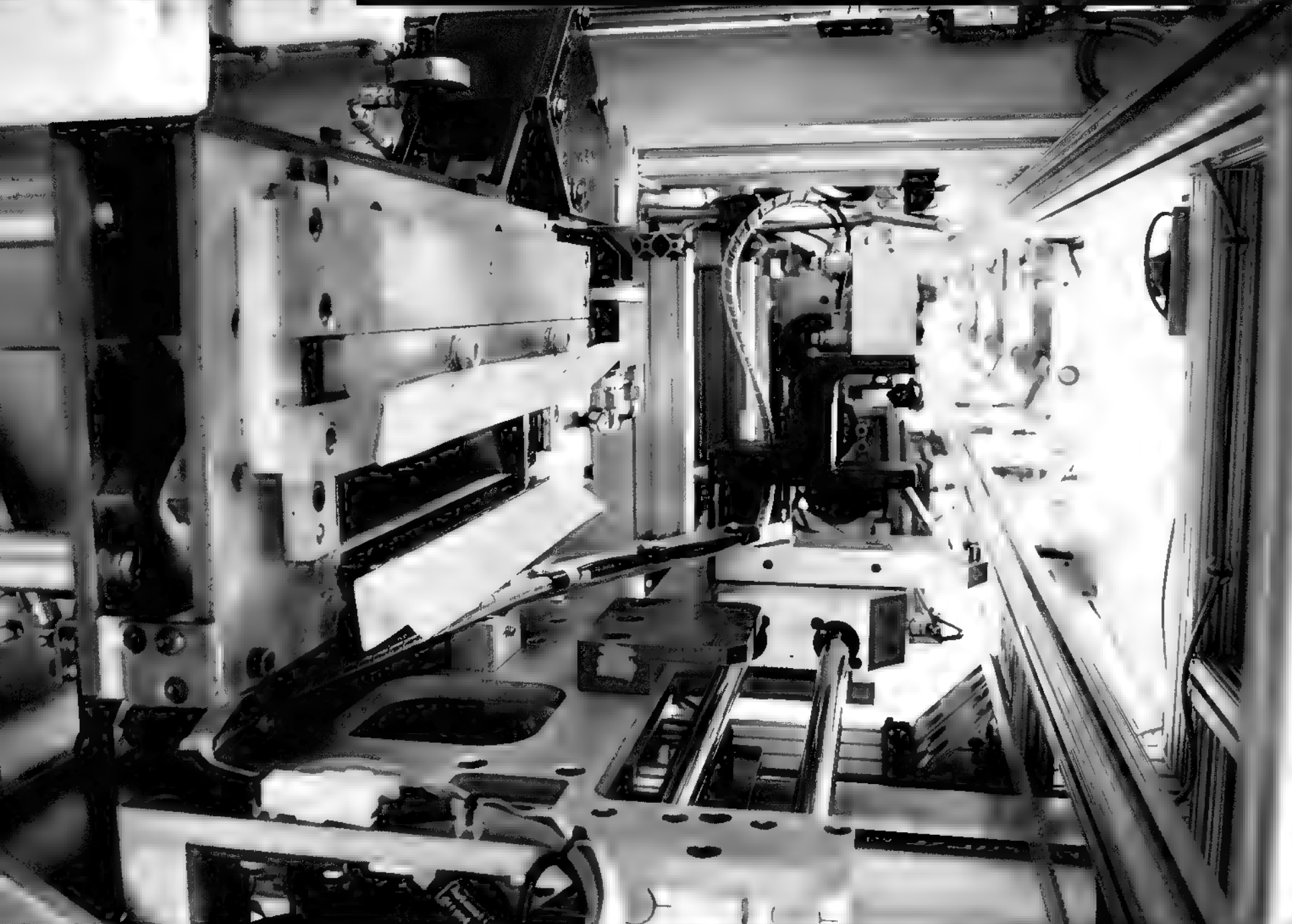
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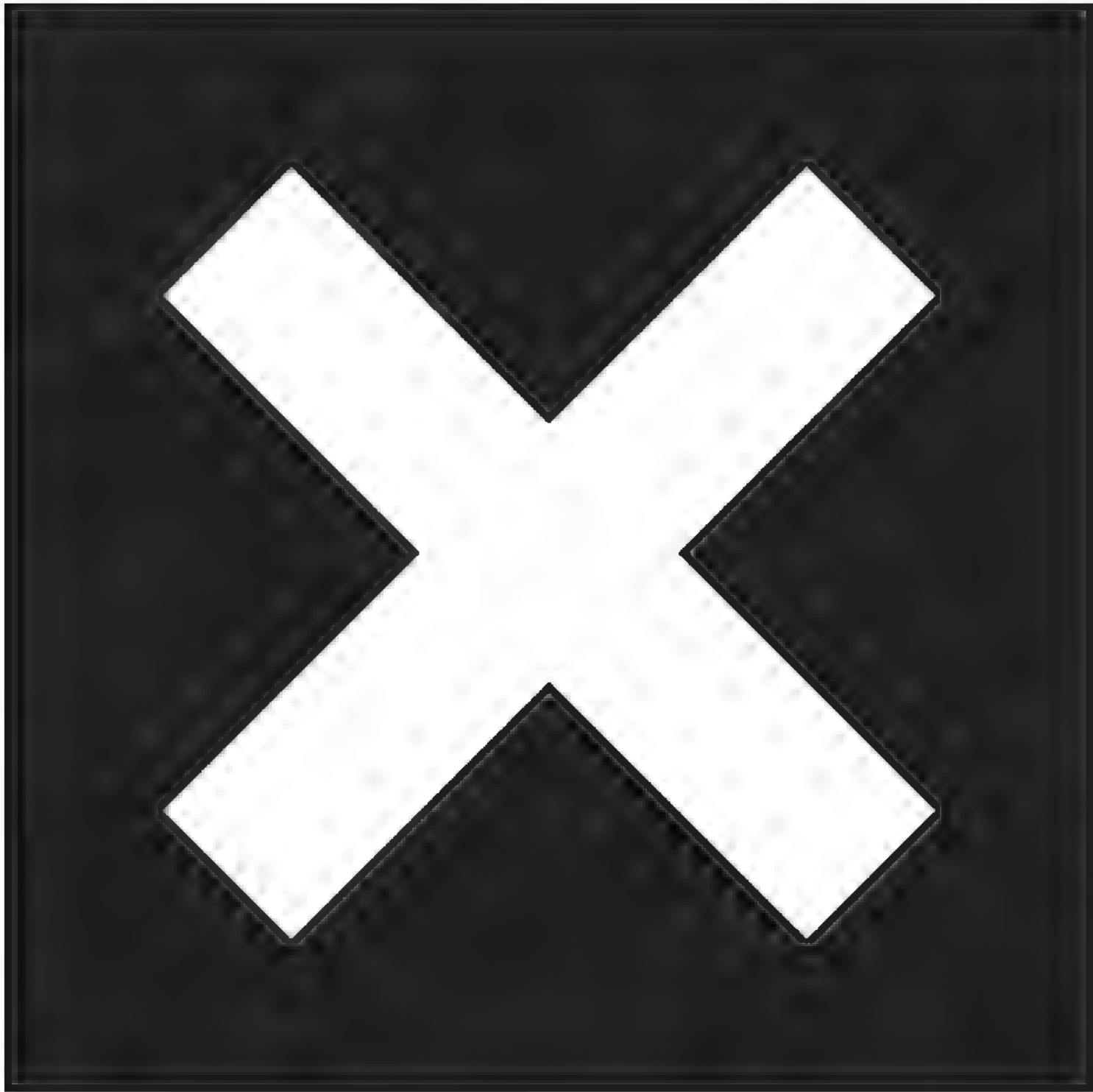
THE
VIEW
FROM
2009

The best Gateway photos of 2009 were taken by Sam Brooks, Claudine Champion, Jeeshan Chowdhury, Tyler Heal, Lisa Lin, Dan McKechnie, Isis Meleshko, Steffi Roskopf, Adam Shepp, Sean Steels, Lauren Stieglitz, Paul Swanson, and Aaron Yeo





We're so Gaga about last year, we're practically Boyleing: the best and worst of pop culture in 2009



A&E
STAFF

Group
Commentary

There was a lot of pressure for 2009 to round out the first decade of the 21st century. Luckily, Gateway pop culture pundits have spent the past year keeping their eyes on emerging talents, TV train wrecks, trends that had us moving, and a few that sucked (literally).

EVAN MUDRYK

Best: Lady Gaga and her (eventual) global takeover

There's really no denying that 2009 was defined by the rise of Lady Gaga. After two tours, four music videos, an album, and more than a few photos alluding to her potential penis, could there have been anyone bigger and badder than her? It helps that her music and videos are genuinely entertaining and contain smart commentary on celebrity culture. Although originally reliant on her LGBTQ fanbase, over the past year Gaga has grown into a legitimate celebrity that extends beyond an endless post-modern wardrobe and her bicuriosity.

For the time being, she's my front-runner for who's most likely to take over the world — pre-2012 destruction, of course. In fact, I wouldn't rule out the possibility of Ms. Gaga being tied to the apocalypse somehow. Picture it: on final day of the Mayan calendar, Lady Gaga unambiguously flashes her ambiguous genitalia on her My Monster Balls Tour, causing riots across all major cities across the world, simultaneously causing every volcano to erupt at once for some reason.

Worst: Get-famous quick schemes

On the other side of the fame spectrum, this year saw more wannabe celebrities than on an episode of *Survivor: All-Stars*. From Octomom to Balloon Boy, I'm having trouble

delegating my all of my hate fairly.

I suppose that, at least, Octomom had enough brass to actually deliver eight children into the world at once, but Richard Heene — despite going through the trouble of building an experimental weather balloon that couldn't have realistically carried away his son in the first place — wasn't even able to lie to us right. "My son Falcon was hiding in the attic because he's such a crazy character." Seriously, people only believed this was true for a weekend before the police called B.S.

Unlike Lady Gaga, who actually has talent and toiled for three years to get the public's attention, Heene tried to fast-track it by pulling the ol' "my-child-is-trapped-in-my-flying-monstrosity" bit. Fittingly, Heene has been ordered to spend 90 days in prison for his deception, and while that's a start, it doesn't make up for the fact that I still have to know that this asshole exists.

WAYNE SIMON

Best: Underheard indie album

Sexy shimmering synths, hypnotic clean guitars, and achingly crooned boy-girl vocals: The xx's self-titled debut album has it all. While Muse verged on the ridiculous with their bombastic rock operas, and Florence + the Machine burst into the scene with fresh, dance-along rock, these 20-year-old South Londoners stripped their brooding music down to the bare basics — and by that, I mean minimalist and delicately entrancing works of art.

Throughout songs like "Crystallised," sleek vocals interweave over drum beats fighting for aural space with lightly reverbed guitar lines. The xx flows somewhat like a later-era, stripped-down Radiohead, albeit with more morose vocals and less plaintive whining. And what's more, the stunningly understated "Shelter" could very well be the most heart-wrenching song of '09. A brilliantly enigmatic album filled to the brim with spectacular songs, xx is a stunner of a debut, and well-deserving of the title of Album of the Year.

Worst: Overheard major album

Pop quiz, hotshot: What do you get when you pair a fumbling Timbaland, who's been on a downward spiral since his production work on Justin Timberlake's last album, with past-his-prime grunge god Chris Cornell? The greatest album of the year.

Just kidding. Chris Cornell's *Scream* is a train wreck of mammoth proportions. While it's perhaps not the most musically atrocious album, it's a sad reminder that when the mighty fall, it ain't pretty. The singer, who once roared his way through grunge classics in Soundgarden and Audioslave has been replaced with a bewildering imitation that yelps and yowls over repetitive drum machine beats and jarring musical samples. Your response to this album should be the same as to a traffic accident — call for help immediately. Then drive the hell away.

CARSON FONG

Best: Beyonce's music video for "Single Ladies," a.k.a. "The Hottest Video of All Time"

"Single Ladies" was released in October of 2008, but it took most of 2009 for its cultural significance to be fully realized. The success of the three-minute cut can be attributed primarily to the dance choreography, but credit should also be given to its sharp visual style, catchy hook, and feminine strength. Bringing out her \$5-million wedding ring probably didn't hurt either. From the *Saturday Night Live* skit with Justin Timberlake, Andy Samberg, and Bobby Moynihan, to the tribute by the football team in the TV series *Glee*, Beyonce's video has been prominent all year long. The sheer number of "Single Ladies"-inspired videos on YouTube is a testament to the impact the dance has made. In the year since it was released, the music video has become a dance floor craze and a cultural phenomenon. Just ask Kanye.



Worst: The sucky obsession with vampires

What happened to the days when teenage girls swooned over heartthrobs like Zac Efron or Adam Brody? Crushing on human beings is so 2008! From this cute-guy exhaustion has sprouted a mutated perversion, a twisted lust for blood-sucking monsters that only belong in horror flicks and cult documentaries. 13-year-old girls going crazy over vampires is so wrong. I'm genuinely concerned for the psychological health of our youth. I remember when vampires were feared, but it's a little difficult for that now, what with their grey pea-coats and sissy eye shadow. This infatuation will only grow, perhaps to other mythological creatures. Maybe the go-to summer blockbuster of 2010 will be *Snowlight*, starring Brody Jenner as the Yeti. Best-case scenario: things go full circle and bats become all the rage, resulting in a new *Batman* movie. But sign me up for Team Robin!

JOHN KMECH

Best: Susan Boyle had a dream

I was initially going to put this as Worst of the Year. After Boyle became an Internet sensation following her uplifting rendition of *Les Misérables'* "I Dreamed a Dream" on *Britain's Got Talent*, the press was almost tripping over themselves to write pieces discussing her meteoric rise to 15 minutes of fame. Usually, they described her in ways that were at best condescending insults (as the word "dowdy" enjoyed its Renaissance). She was even hospitalized due to the stress of being under the media's 24-hour supervision, and she didn't even end up being the competition's winner.

But even after the occasionally vicious scrutiny over her personal appearance, it's hard to argue against the end result: Boyle achieved her dream of becoming a professional singer. Her album, *I Dreamed a Dream*, has sold over 6 million copies and 2010 begins with Boyle on the top of the charts. There's a fantasy realized in Boyle's story that gives hope to millions: that a "normal" person with a special talent could become famous in our image-obsessed culture — even if they have to sell their soul to the Cowell devil in order for that to happen.

Worst: The Jon & Kate Plus 8 Ringling Brothers tabloid circus

In the span of only a few weeks, *Jon & Kate Plus 8* went from being just another fine example of TLC's commitment to shitty programming, to being at the nexus of a media tsunami the likes of which only a boy fraudulently drifting away in a helium balloon deserves. Things began to unravel in April when reports of Jon Gosselin's extramarital screwing-around came out, which only got more in-depth as time went on after divorce proceedings were announced. A tabloid carpet-bombing ensued, the show

enjoyed its highest ratings ever, and America's water cooler discussions had everyone taking sides as to which parent was the least horrible asshole/bitch. After TLC made the move to change the show to *Kate Plus 8*, Jon filed a cease-and-desist, valiantly claiming that the children were now being exploited after only two years of paycheques. Even after the final episode aired, the Gosselins inexplicably continue to remain in the spotlight, although less so after the November premiere of *Tiger & Elin Plus 14*.

LARYSSA SZMIHELKY

Best Sandra Bullock film: The Proposal

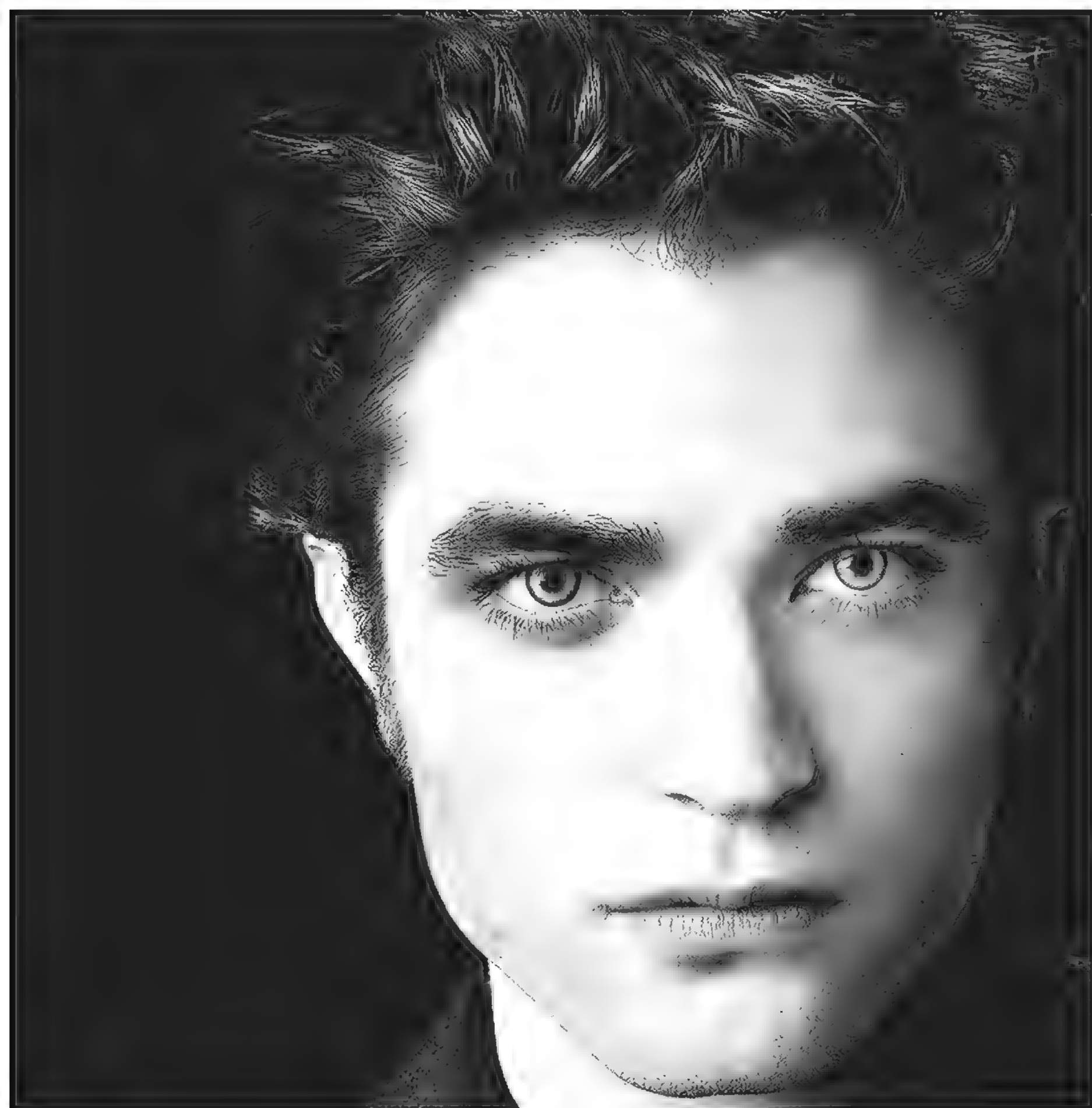
Being that I am a huge chick flick fanatic, I can confidently say that *The Proposal* is the best of its genre this past year. Although my slight obsession with heartthrob Ryan Reynolds swayed my opinion a bit, the script itself ultimately worked its magic on me. The plot reuses many typical chick flick tropes, but they all manage to exist in a perfect balance. The tension, stress, and awkwardness between Andrew Paxton (Reynolds) and his bitch-on-wheels boss Margaret Tate (Sandra Bullock) had me laughing throughout the film.

My first laughing fit came as the two characters accidentally run into each other while wet and naked, creating a painful slapping sound. As the movie progressed, the ice-queen (Bullock) became more personable and less of "Satan's mistress" (Paxton's nickname for his Boss), which gradually led me to root for her. The happily-ever-after ending left me smiling and giddy. As you enter the semester and need a good distraction and a good laugh, sit yourself down with this movie.

Worst Sandra Bullock film: All About Steve

Correct me if I'm wrong, but doesn't a comedy need to have at least some sort of humour written into it? The laugh factor is exactly what *All About Steve* is missing, unless you find stalker-like obsession, crosswords, grown women who talk to hamsters, and a little deaf girl being stuck in a mine shaft funny. I should mention that the little-deaf-girl scene is the climax of the movie.

Bullock's character, Mary Horowitz, is beyond being socially inept. I'm still wondering if there was a missed explanation about her having a serious psychological problem, as all of her bizarre behaviour is beyond the realm of "quirkiness." The plot sees Mary get fired from her job as a crossword puzzle creator (yes, really) and then stalking her "true love" Steve (Bradley Cooper) across the country, while bonding with other social outcasts. If nothing else, at least *All About Steve* makes *The Proposal* seem even better.



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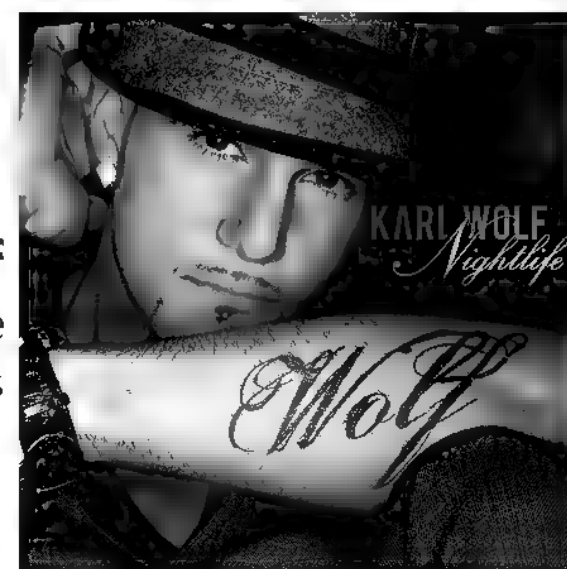
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Massari
Forever Massari
Universal Records

VS.



Karl Wolf
Nightlife
LW Records

JOHN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The plan: pick two albums and pit them against each other in a gruesome deathmatch until a victor emerges. There can be only one!

Best Doppelganger

Massari: Probably Karl Wolf, who bears an uncanny, almost disturbing resemblance to Massari in appearance, background, and musical stylings. Both are bald-headed, aviator-sporting, Lebanese-Canadian purveyors of tired clubbin' beats and putridly slick R&B, with enough chinstraps between them to keep helmets on an entire NHL team. Make sure to put on welding glasses when looking through his liner notes; staring at this many popped collars has been proven to cause retinal searing and irreversible blindness.

Wolf: Massari. The only discernable difference is that Wolf has a labret piercing, has "Lone Wolf" tattooed on his forearms in a way that looks like a sub-standard Photoshop manipulation, and appears to own up to two hats.

Edge: Neither. When you pick up Karl Wolf's album and accidentally mistake it for Massari's (true story), you are witnessing two not-very-distinguishable artists.

Worst Album Opening

Massari: "Body Body," which indicates a profound creative desperation approximately zero seconds into the album. Its crunching opening melody has been a dance hit for years, ever since it was known as Salt-n-Pepa's "Push It." Yes, Massari has opened his album with a

single that heavily samples one of the most sampled songs of all time — which nevertheless makes "Body Body" just as catchy as it was when it was released in 1987.

Wolf: "Yalla Habibi," is a passable dance track, but opens with Wolf's featured help on the song, a rapper who's dubbed himself Kaz Money. When he gave himself a shout-out, I mistakenly thought he was saying "cash money" and enjoyed a hearty laugh. When I discovered what he was actually saying "Kaz Money," my feelings didn't change.

Edge: Wolf. He has an entire four seconds on Massari before the appearance of something laughably contrived.

Best Song for Getting Asses on the Floor

Massari: "Girls Around The World," which, while seeming to establish Massari's bold girl-in-every-port stance, is also an annoyingly catchy earworm.

Wolf: "Nightlife," where Wolf tells the heartwarming story of a sheltered "good girl" who casts off the shackles of her straight-arrow life and becomes addicted to being a bar star.

Edge: Massari. Regardless of how irritating it is, it's best for doing the Party Boy on the dance floor.

Most Unintentionally Funny Lyrics

Massari: "She's like a moving target / Every time I wanna come and get close she fades away / she's like a moving target / if I don't hurry up and lock that, she'll get away" from the track "Moving Target" speaks powerfully to the frustrations of stalkers everywhere, who have to put up with girls moving out of their line of sight and fighting back

during their subsequent kidnapping and imprisonment.

Wolf: "You might think I'm over you / No girl! You're the baddest / Even though I'm in love with you / I had to change my status / cause I'm hurting! I'm hurting! I'm hurting!" from "Hurting" is a poignant digital-age testament to Wolf's personal anguish over changing his Facebook status to "it's complicated."

Bonus Massari: "Said she wanna take me on some bizarre love triangle" from "Love Triangle" is open to vast interpretations. Massari seems to allude to the sacred love between himself, the girl of his dreams, and a very special turtle — a love that dare not speak its name.

Edge: Stalking and turtle sex? Massari wins, hands down.

Worst Toto Cover

Massari: None.

Wolf: "Africa," which was featured on Wolf's previous album and became a smash hit, so he decided to milk it for as much of its little worth as possible by including it as a "bonus track."

Edge: Massari. Covering Toto is never acceptable.

Victor

Massari, if we're basing the win on who's more ridiculous, but most of Massari's songs are too immemorable to be forgettable. Wolf seems slightly more talented, though we're all a little worse off for these albums existing. Listening to one of these albums makes me feel oily and in need of a bath. Both at the same time requires a dousing in turpentine. Comically over-the-top douchebaggery rarely gets this flagrant or offensive.



albumreview

Norah Jones
The Fall
Bluenote Records/EMI

JOEL RACKEL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Where can you hear wailing teenagers, inarticulate language, and incessant banging noises, often all at once? No, not your roommate's bedroom, but while listening to most Top-40 music these days. Yet, amidst the noise and calamity, a pretty songstress named Norah Jones has been able to consistently sell gazillions of records.

What's strange about this is how

quiet Jones is for popular music — she backs off almost every instrument. She has hushed drums, low or palm-muted guitar, piano delicately sprinkled on top, and vocals that are never screamed or over-sung, but crooned.

The Fall is Jones' fourth offering and it's her first without longtime bassist-producer-boyfriend Lee Alexander (the couple broke up shortly before most of

these songs were written). The departure led Jones to collaborate with a mosaic of artists and a new producer. The result is a fascinating concoction of songs that are still within the Norah Jones formula, but push the bounds a bit.

Assumingly due to her breakup angst, the songs take new shapes, new instruments are brought in, and the levels are turned up — but only slightly. Yes, this is a breakup album, but it's a Norah Jones breakup album, and still manages to be easy listening. The lyrics are where Jones lets loose, however, skewering her ex (and his mom), as well as concluding that her dog is the only worthy man for her.

Breakup aside, *The Fall* is really the same ol' Norah Jones, but the smattering of experimentation and artistic maturation only improves her sound.

FLOP
CULTURE

When your current claim to fame is that your fame is fading, it might be a sign that you should consider stepping out of the dimming spotlight for a while. Kathy Griffin, who's mostly known these days for starring in *My Life on the D-List*, managed to land a gig co-hosting CNN's New Year's Eve special with Anderson Cooper (because nobody was going to kiss her at midnight anyway, right?), and while reviewing the top news stories of the year, she jokingly referred to Balloon Boy (a.k.a. Falcon Heene) as "Fucking Heene."

In response, Cooper just shakes his head, offers a small, embarrassed laugh, and calls her "terrible" before carrying on. Anticipating an uproar, CNN quickly issued a statement on Griffin's behalf, apologizing for her use of "profanity." Nowhere in the statement did CNN apologize for hiring Griffin in the first place, nor did they acknowledge that even if what she said was offensive, it just wasn't funny.

I'm not a fan of Griffin, her show, or of redheads in general, but I'm actually tickled that she hasn't apologized for the incident. When you willingly put Kathy Griffin on TV and ask her to behave herself, you're lucky if the least she does is swear. She's never apologized for being obnoxious

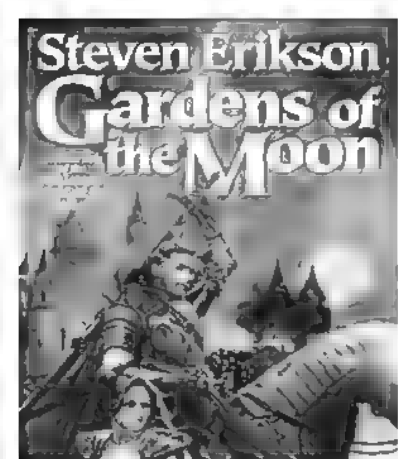
before, so why expect her to change now? Perhaps I'll give her a mulligan on this one and assume that somewhere on what ought to be a lengthy list of resolutions, she's committing herself to becoming funnier, and to stop trading notes with Dane Cook. Except that the sixth season of *D-List* begins airing this month, so it's probably a safe bet to say that's not going to happen. Fuck.

SARAH STEAD

Flop Culture is a semi-regular feature in which Gateway pop culture pundits shake their literary fists at ridiculous events or celebrities deserving of an inky bitch-slap.

Starting the decade on a literary note: our favourite novels

If one of your resolutions this year was to read more, then picking up a *Gateway* was a good first step. Pat yourself on the back, and then take a peek at this list of the most pored-over paperbacks by our resident bookworms.



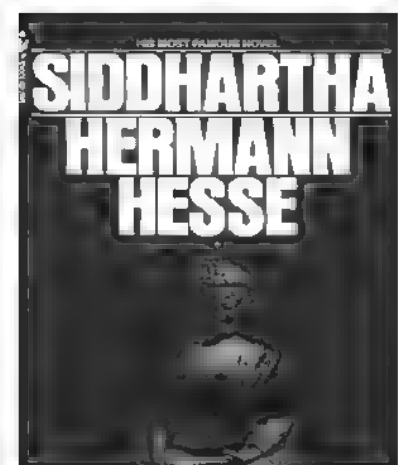
GARDENS OF THE MOON
BY STEVEN ERIKSON

Catherine Chuck

The beginning of a new decade is the perfect opportunity to honour the king of heavy duty word counts: Steven Erikson. This is a man who can plough through 400,000 words every year and still have each one matter. The dude is a beast.

And *Gardens of the Moon*, the first novel in his decade-long fantasy series *Malazan Book of the Fallen*, is probably the best 400,000 words he's ever written and certainly one of my favourite novels. Everything about this novel eschews the basic trappings of the bargain-bin fantasy book. There are no five-page descriptions of pretty trees in a forest. There are no grandiose prophecies or insufferable heroes' journeys. Instead, it chronicles the writhing expansion of corrupt empires and the people unlucky enough to be caught in their seething heart. It's fantasy fare at a massive scale with interconnecting cities and personalities, events unfurling in real time, reverberating across continents — even into the lives of meddling gods.

It's fantastic. But thankfully, the novel isn't bogged down by its own self-importance. It has a dark sense of humour, and characters that are at once victims and purveyors of it. And there's something inexplicably awesome about a novel that names a character Anomandaris Dragnipurake and makes no apologies for it. Seriously.



SIDDHARTHA
BY HERMAN HESSE

Gabby Riches

Understanding our own realities, achieving intellectual and spiritual enlightenment, and acknowledging our sense of “self” are philosophical aspirations that are both overwhelming and occasionally perceived as unattainable ambitions. However, Herman Hesse's groundbreaking novel *Siddhartha* illustrates that being conscious of everyday human experience and understanding leads to self-actualization and an illumination of reason.

The meaning of the word Siddhartha conceptualizes the novel. Siddhartha is made of two words in the Sanskrit language, *siddha* (achieved) and *artha* (meaning or wealth). The two words combined mean, “He who has found meaning (of existence) or “He who has attained his goals.” The story takes place in ancient Nepal where the son of a Brahmin, Siddhartha, is plagued by an unexplainable void. Siddhartha, not wholly satisfied by the teachings of Brahmin and skeptical of becoming a disciple of the Illustrious One (Buddha), discards his contemplative life and decides to embark on his own journey to attain enlightenment.

Throughout his journey, Siddhartha indulges in hedonistic

pleasures, conceives a son, and ultimately seeks solace from the never-ending but always changing river. The influential story of *Siddhartha* challenges the notion that understanding is only capable of being significant if derived from scriptures or teachers. Understanding is the totality of our experiences, the aggregate of conscious events experienced in life which signify participation, listening, learning, and perhaps knowledge.



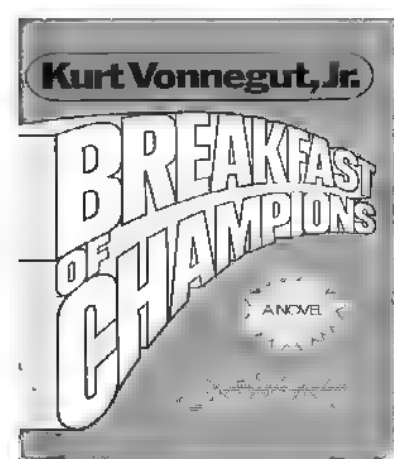
THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME
BY MARK HADDON

Lance Mudryk

Living with autism is a constant struggle. Living with an autistic family member isn't any easier. Christopher Boon, a teenage boy with high-functioning autism, discovers the murder of his neighbour's dog and sets out to solve the mystery while writing a novel about it along the way.

As you'd expect, Christopher is kind of peculiar: he thinks metaphors don't make sense to him and hits anyone that tries to touch him. He's great with math, physics, and memorizing, but has difficulties reading people's expressions. Although you'd think a one-hour train ride alone would be a rather mundane task for a 15-year-old, in this context, it makes for one of the most intense and physically exhausting things I've ever read.

I've read the book twice now, both times sort of by accident, picking it up on a slow day, thinking that I'd might read a little for fun. However, each time has pulled me in with such a force that I end up not doing anything else until I've completed it. Thankfully, it's a short book with an easy-to-read voice, so before I know it, it's back on the shelf, waiting for another boring day with nothing else to do. Frankly, I'm looking forward to it.



BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS
BY KURT VONNEGUT

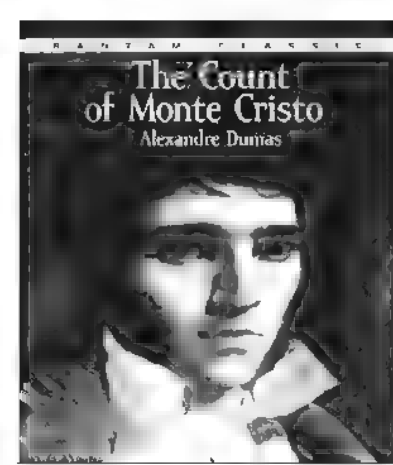
Evan Mudryk

On the fifth page of Kurt Vonnegut's masterpiece, there's a picture, drawn by the

author, of an asshole. Not by accident, the very next picture is of the American flag. Then on page 23, he draws a beaver, and then a vagina. Now, I'm not saying that any writer can get away with this, but Vonnegut can and does because he writes, and draws, in such an honest and matter-of-fact way.

When Vonnegut introduces a male character, he indicates the length and width of his penis. He constantly reminds the reader of the book's ending, wherein Dwayne Hoover, a “fabulously well-to-do” Pontiac dealer, goes insane after reading a book and goes on to hurt many people. Vonnegut himself figures heavily into the plot, confronts his characters, and tells the reader that they are reading a story that is not true, but mentions that some parts are true.

As the writer, Vonnegut is a god within his own story. He can change it on a whim, kill people that don't actually exist, but instead chooses to spare them. Simply put, *Breakfast of Champions* is an absolute must read for aspiring writers, and a hilarious and dark examination of America that no one should overlook.



THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
BY ALEXANDRE DUMAS

Jon Grier

The *Count of Monte Cristo* is nothing less than an epic. Like the poetry of old, it tells of a “hero” who overcomes impossible odds to bring vengeance to those who would wrong him. But Edmond Dantès is not a hero. He's not a fictional legend, an agent of God, an underdog sailor, or a vampiric noble. He's a man like any other man, and it's his own mortality — not his arsenal of powers or endless wealth — that saves him in the end.

Edmond Dantès is all of us. Everyone's been wronged and betrayed. We have all sought out our own forms of revenge, with innocent people no doubt caught in the crossfire. The message of the book is a warning, that we are human and that in our search for justice, we may very well become villains ourselves. But it's also a promise that if we so choose, we may atone for our wrongdoings and transcend what may have happened. If we're all agents of fate, we are all subject to its will. So the final question remains, what can we do when faced with each of our uncertain futures? The Count gives his answer as three words: “Wait and hope.” Even if it's not the best story in the world, this book has moved and inspired me like none other.



THE FOUNTAINHEAD
BY AYN RAND

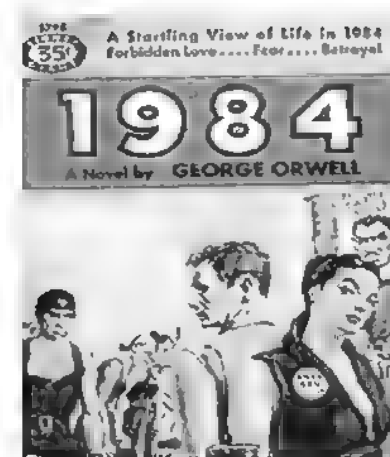
Bruce Cinnamon

The *Fountainhead* is the story of Howard Roark, an architect struggling to assert his own creative vision in a society founded on tradition-worship and hatred of the individual's potential for greatness. Where his peers bow and submit to the corruption of their system, winning them temporary fame and wealth, Roark refuses to compromise his values for success in the eyes of others.

Half *bildungsroman*, half philosophical diatribe, *The Fountainhead* is as much a treatise on the evils of collectivism as it is a novel. Though the dialogue is at times little more than the author's vessel for moral exhortation, she manages to create a realistic and sympathetic hero who simply refuses to lose, and thus triumphs.

Though a hefty read at 700 pages, *The Fountainhead* is far better edited and more inspiring than its bloated successor, the more famous *Atlas Shrugged*. At times the author's characterization of liberalism as “parasitism” is dubious, but the novel must be read within the context of Rand's escape from the horrors of the communist revolution in Russia.

Despite its few flaws, *The Fountainhead's* message of individual happiness above all else and the evil of a society which demands self-immolation is uplifting, and makes the book an outstanding read.



1984
BY GEORGE ORWELL

Doug Johnson

With its brilliant exploration of totalitarianism and its profound impact on society, it should come as no surprise that George Orwell's *1984* is still widely read 60 years after it was written. Orwell is, above all else, a socially conscious writer and his stories and the thoughts they provoke ring true even today.

The story follows the protagonist, Winston Smith, and his personal rebellion set in a masterfully developed dystopian London, complete with its own corruption of the English language (Newspeak). The setting of Big Brother is the inscrutable, deliberately Stalin-esque dictator of this fictitious society who maintains control through propaganda, linguistic and historical manipulation, and ever-vigilant government surveillance. This character has since worked his way into everyday vocabulary and political awareness that is particularly relevant to the modern world as society and technology advances.

Despite its immense fame, *1984* is not for everyone, especially not the faint of heart. It is not the happiest little novel in the whole world and you absolutely need to have an understanding of history to fully appreciate it. But despite its gruff exterior, *1984* is rightly one of the most acclaimed and influential novels written in the 20th century, and also one of my personal favourites.



Volleyball perfection and individual accolades highlight '09

2009 saw both perfection and rejection when it came to U of A athletics, along with some major individual storylines. Here's a look back at the year that was for all things Green and Gold.

VOLLEY-BEARS CROWNED CHAMPS ON HOME COURT

In what was one of the greatest single seasons in both U of A Athletics and CIS history, the Golden Bears volleyball squad capped off a remarkable season in 2008/09 with the program's sixth national title.

The Bears proved to the nation they were the cream of the crop in men's volleyball last year, going 18-0 in the regular season and continuing their perfect record into the postseason, en route to winning the national title with a straight-set dismantling of the Laval Rouge et Or in front of a raucous home court crowd. That win was the culmination of a season in which CIS Coach of the Year Terry Danyluk and his team won Alberta's fourth title in eight years.

Led by a strong group of veterans, including tournament all-stars Mike DeRocco and Joel Schmuland, the Green and Gold were near unstoppable, dropping only a handful of sets all year long and propelling themselves to a truly golden season.

SCHMULAND BRINGS HOME THE HARDWARE

Joel Schmuland not only led his team to the biggest prize in CIS men's volleyball, but he also saw his efforts rewarded by receiving the highest of individual honours.

Along with being named Canada West and CIS men's volleyball MVP, as well as an All-Canadian, Schmuland became the first male U of A athlete to win the prestigious Borden Ladner Gervais Award as the nation's top male varsity athlete of the year.

Schmuland — known during last year's magnificent run as "The Bearded Menace" — became only the second U of A athlete ever to win the award, after Jenny Cartmell pulled off the feat in 1999/2000. The historic win capped off a tremendous career at the U of A for Schmuland, who went on to led Team Canada at the Summer Universiade last July in Serbia.

ROTTIER TAKEN FIRST BY TI-CATS IN CFL DRAFT

Despite falling short of the playoffs in his final season with Golden Bears football, offensive tackle Simeon Rottier enjoyed a great deal of individual success as a member of the Green and Gold, earning himself the first-overall selection in last year's CFL Draft by the Hamilton Tiger Cats.

The Westlock, Alberta native anchored a Bears offensive line that surrendered only 13 sacks in his senior season, and was also named to the East-West Shrine Game in 2009 — an all-star game featuring some of the best football seniors from the NCAA and CIS.

Rottier saw action in 20 games in his first season on the Ti-Cats roster, and his selection marked the first time a member of the Bears had been the first pick in the CFL Draft.

HARDWOOD COACHING LEGEND HORWOOD RETIRES

A fixture on the Bears basketball sidelines for 26 years, legendary coach Don Horwood called it a career at the completion of the 2008/09 basketball season after leading the Bears to new basketball heights during his tenure.

Horwood, who spent nearly a decade at Oak Bay High School in Victoria before joining Alberta, led the Hoop Bears to the program's first national title in 1994 and a successful repeat in 1995. The Carbonear, Newfoundland native helped the Bears to their most recent national title back in 2002.



FILE PHOTO: KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

HOMECOURT HONOUR The 2009 edition of the Golden Bears volleyball squad was a memorable one, going 18-0 during the regular season en route to capturing the national championship at home in front of a jam-packed Main Gym.

After leading the Bears for more than two decades, Horwood left new head coach Greg Francis with a foundation of excellence to build on, as Francis now patrols the familiar sideline where Horwood was a mainstay for so many years.

UNIVERSIADE BID FALLS SHORT

Not all the big stories of 2009 were warm and fuzzy for U of A Athletics,

with the failed Universiade bid topping the list of 2009 sports downers.

With the 2015 Summer Universiade up for grabs, the U of A partnered with all three levels of government to put forth an impressive bid to bring the event back to the City of Champions. Edmonton successfully hosted the event back in 1983, with the Universiade Pavilion (better known as the Butterdome) just one of

the lasting legacies from the event.

The Universiade would have brought major gains to the U of A, with new athletic facilities being constructed to go along with major upgrades to existing ones. Gwangju, South Korea won the 2015 bid, however, spelling the end — at least for the time being — of the Universiade's return to Canada.

— Evan Daum, Sports Editor

Edmonton sports scene underscored by new faces and familiar champs in 2009

Much like 2008, '09 was an up and down year for sports in the City of Champions. These are just a few of the stories that dominated the Edmonton sports scene in the past year.

KATZ AND THE CAPITALS HIT IT OFF

While it might not be the glory days of baseball in Edmonton when the Trappers were winning championships and boasting the likes of future major leaguer Johan Santana on the mound, baseball in this city still took major strides forward in 2009 with the creation of the Capitals.

With Oilers owner and pharmaceutical magnate Daryl Katz stepping up to purchase the floundering Cracker-Cats of the Northern League, the Katz Group turned the embarrassing franchise into the Capitals of the Golden Baseball League — and in doing so, turned the page on a sad chapter for Edmonton baseball.

After suffering through abysmal management and overall futility with the Cracker-Cats, the Capitals gave baseball fans a breath of fresh air in their inaugural season.

Attendance went up thanks to a vastly improved atmosphere coupled with a competitive team on the field, meaning baseball took a much-needed step forward in Edmonton in '09.

OILERS WELCOME NEW SHERIFF(S) TO TOWN

With former Oilers head coach Craig MacTavish and his coaching staff being replaced behind the bench, general manager Steve Tambellini brought in a pair of experienced NHL coaches this offseason to lead the Copper and Blue into

2009/10: Pat Quinn and Tom Renney.

Quinn, whose last coaching stint at the NHL level was with the Toronto Maple Leafs back in 2005/06, was brought in as head coach, while former Canucks and Rangers bench boss Renney signed on as an associate coach. Both brought with them a great deal of coaching experience, with more than 20 years combined as NHL head coaches.

Kelly Buchberger, who was an assistant under MacTavish remained with the organization in that capacity, while Wayne Fleming rounded out the revamped coaching staff.

RICHIE HALL LEADS THE NEW-LOOK ESKIMOS

After former head coach Danny Maciocia gave up the head coaching duties to focus full-time on being general manager, Richie Hall was handed the reigns as head coach of the Eskimos for the 2009 campaign.

In what was another up and down season for the Eskimo Empire, the squad finished the season with a .500 record going 9-9, settling for third in the Western Division and a first-round matchup with provincial rivals, the Calgary Stampeders. The Stamps got the best of the Eks again at McMahon Stadium, beating them 24-21 and marking the end of the Green and Gold's season.

For Hall, it was his first stint at the helm of a CFL team, and was marked by inconsistent play and the loss of both coordinators before 2009 had come to a close — offensive coordinator Rick Worman was fired in September, while defensive coordinator Jim Daley stepped down in December.

HEATLEY NEARLY LANDS WITH OIL

To borrow a line from popular *This Hour* has 22 Minutes character Raj Binder: "Is it me, or is it getting Dany Heatley in here?" For Oilers fans, it almost got Dany Heatley in Edmonton, but not quite.

The would-be deal involving Andrew Cogliano, Dustin Penner, and Ladislav Smid for the former disgruntled Ottawa Senators sniper was shot down by Heatley, leaving Oilers fans steaming mad, and the Sens scrambling to find another interested suitor for the Calgary native, with Heatley eventually landing in sunny San Jose.

With Dustin Penner having an outstanding season, the frustration of Heatley turning down the Oil may have subsided if it weren't for the fact Heatley has had yet another outstanding season, sitting inside the top-10 in both goal scoring and points thus far.

KEVIN MARTIN'S RINK ROCKS THE ROAR

With three rinks from the Saville Sports Centre at the Roar of the Rings, the odds were on Edmonton's side to see a hometown squad take home the title and the right to represent Canada at the upcoming Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

Heading into the tournament, hometown hero Kevin Martin's rink was among the favourites to emerge from the eight men's teams as champion, and earn the Olympic berth. Among those standing in his way was archrival Glenn Howard and his team from Ontario.

Martin downed Howard in the final round-robin draw 8-6, thanks to a three-ender in the ninth, and in doing so, finished first in the standings and



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

EYES ON EBERLE Pat Quinn could be coaching Canadian junior star Jordan Eberle next season.

earned a berth in the final. Howard was left to play Jeff Stoughton's team in the two-three semi-final, with that winner facing Martin in the final.

Howard pulled off the semi-final win, and met his old foe Martin in the final. In what was one of the best curled matches of the week by a single team, Martin and his squad of John Morris, Marc Kennedy, and Ben Hebert captured a 7-3 victory over Howard, and now roar into Vancouver come February looking for Olympic gold.

— Evan Daum, Sports Editor



FILE PHOTO: LISA LIN

Volleyball Pandas ring in New year with wins

EMERSON CSORBA
Sports Staff

After a 10–2 conference mark through the first half of the season, Krista Zubick and the Pandas volleyball squad showed no signs of rust following the two-week winter break, netting a pair of victories this past weekend at home.

On Saturday, the number-five ranked Pandas made quick work of the Regina Cougars, and then repeated their performance later that day with a win over the number-eight ranked Laval Rouge et Or.

Zubick led the way for the Pandas in the opener, making key plays early on as the Pandas preserved a narrow lead in the first set. The following sets were just as smooth, with the Pandas dictating the pace of the match, building momentum as time passed, and Zubick provided a number of clutch plays.

“Krista’s played almost every position for us this year. We’re trying to fill her in on a right-side role. Some of the things she does are brilliant. The sky’s the limit with her,” Eisler said.

“Krista’s played almost every position for us this year. We’re trying to fill her in on a right-side role. Some of the things she does are brilliant. The sky’s the limit with her.”

LAURIE EISLER
PANDAS VOLLEYBALL HEAD COACH

The promising results may be due to the squad’s concerted training regimen during the break.

“During the exam period, we did a lot of physical training and technical training. We came back on the 28th and have been training pretty hard all week. We haven’t lost the physical side.”

The later matchup against Laval featured another tilt between top-ranked teams, with the Pandas dominating once again. Taking the pair of non-conference games to begin the second half of the season bodes well for Eisler’s squad going into 2010.

“It’s important for us to feel like we’re moving forward. We’re not satisfied with what we did in term one. We played Regina in November, so this game serves as a measuring stick. You have to beat that team, they don’t break down. Based on today’s results, our team looks good and the athletes look strong,” Eisler explained.

Alberta opens the second half of their regular season schedule this weekend with a pair of games in Langley, B.C. against 5–5 Trinity Western.

Pro sports provides plenty of drama and downfalls in 2009

Perhaps the biggest story of the decade in sports came in 2009, with Tiger Woods downfall. That story highlighted 2009 in the pro sports world.

TIGER WOODS FALLS FROM GRACE

It’s astounding to see how easily Tiger Woods has fallen from his peak of stardom to the lowest of lows.

In the early morning hours of November 27, the world’s top-ranked golfer was involved in a single-vehicle car accident. The incident proved to be the tipping factor in a domino effect, resulting in surfaced reports that Woods had been having affairs with as many as 18 women.

On December 16, reports began to surface that Woods’ wife Elin Nordegren was preparing to file for divorce from the billion-dollar golf icon. In addition, several of Tiger’s sponsors have severed ties with him, including Accenture and AT&T.

Woods’ indefinite absence from competitive golf is sure to have a significant negative impact on the PGA Tour.

BASEBALL’S CONTINUING STEROID PROBLEM

In 2009, the ongoing steroid scandal resurfaced with two more of baseball’s perennial superstars being exposed as steroid users: Alex Rodriguez and Manny Ramirez.

Rodriguez publicly admitted his use of the steroid Primobolan from 2001–03. And while he might be forgiven by the baseball community, especially as it

pertains to his potential induction into the Hall of Fame, Ramirez likely will not receive the same treatment.

In 2009, Ramirez was discovered to have been taking a women’s fertility drug — Human chorionic gonadotropin — to help him, as a steroid user, re-establish his natural testosterone production.

Man-Ram was slapped with a 50-game suspension as a result, and hit a mere .269 upon his return.

STEELERS OVERCOME CARDINALS IN SUPER BOWL

Not many people would’ve picked the Arizona Cardinals to be the opponent of the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XLIII, nor would they have anticipated the conclusion that unfolded on Super Sunday.

The Cardinals took a 23–20 lead with 2:37 left to play in the fourth quarter, when quarterback Kurt Warner tossed a 64-yard touchdown pass to University of Pittsburgh product Larry Fitzgerald.

Steelers pivot Ben Roethlisberger and wide receiver Antonio Holmes shredded the Cards on Pittsburgh’s ensuing drive. The two would eventually hook up on a six-yard TD pass to regain the lead.

The Steelers survived the final 35 seconds to defeat Arizona 27–23 and capture the franchise’s sixth Lombardi Trophy.

SID THE KID CAPTAINS PENS TO STANLEY CUP WIN

Prior to the start of the 2009 Stanley Cup Final, the question was whether or not the young Pittsburgh Penguins had what

it took to defeat the defending Stanley Cup Champion Detroit Red Wings, especially considering that the Wings beat the Pens in the 2008 Cup Final.

The Penguins fell flat in Games 1 and 2 in the Motor City, but showed grit and determination in being able to win three of the next four games to force a Game 7 back in Detroit which they won 2–1 in thrilling fashion.

Sidney Crosby finished with 31 points and, at 21 years old, became the youngest captain to hoist the Stanley Cup, while Evgeni Malkin became the first Russian-born player ever to win the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP.

BIG-MONEY CONTRACTS KEY YANKS TO WORLD SERIES

The New York Yankees have long been Major League Baseball’s most successful franchise, but they entered 2009 without having captured a World Series Championship in nine years.

All-Star pitchers C.C. Sabathia and A.J. Burnett were brought in to form a formidable one-two punch in the Yankees’ starting rotation. In addition to those signings, the Yankees signed slugger Mark Teixeira and re-signed Alex Rodriguez to a 10-year, \$275 million contract, which put the price tag of their offseason acquisitions at an astounding \$423.5 million.

The money spent by Cashman and the Yankees proved its worth after they defeated the defending World Series Champion Philadelphia Phillies in an extremely tight six-game series, capturing the franchise’s 27th title.

— Nathan Liewicki, Sports Staff

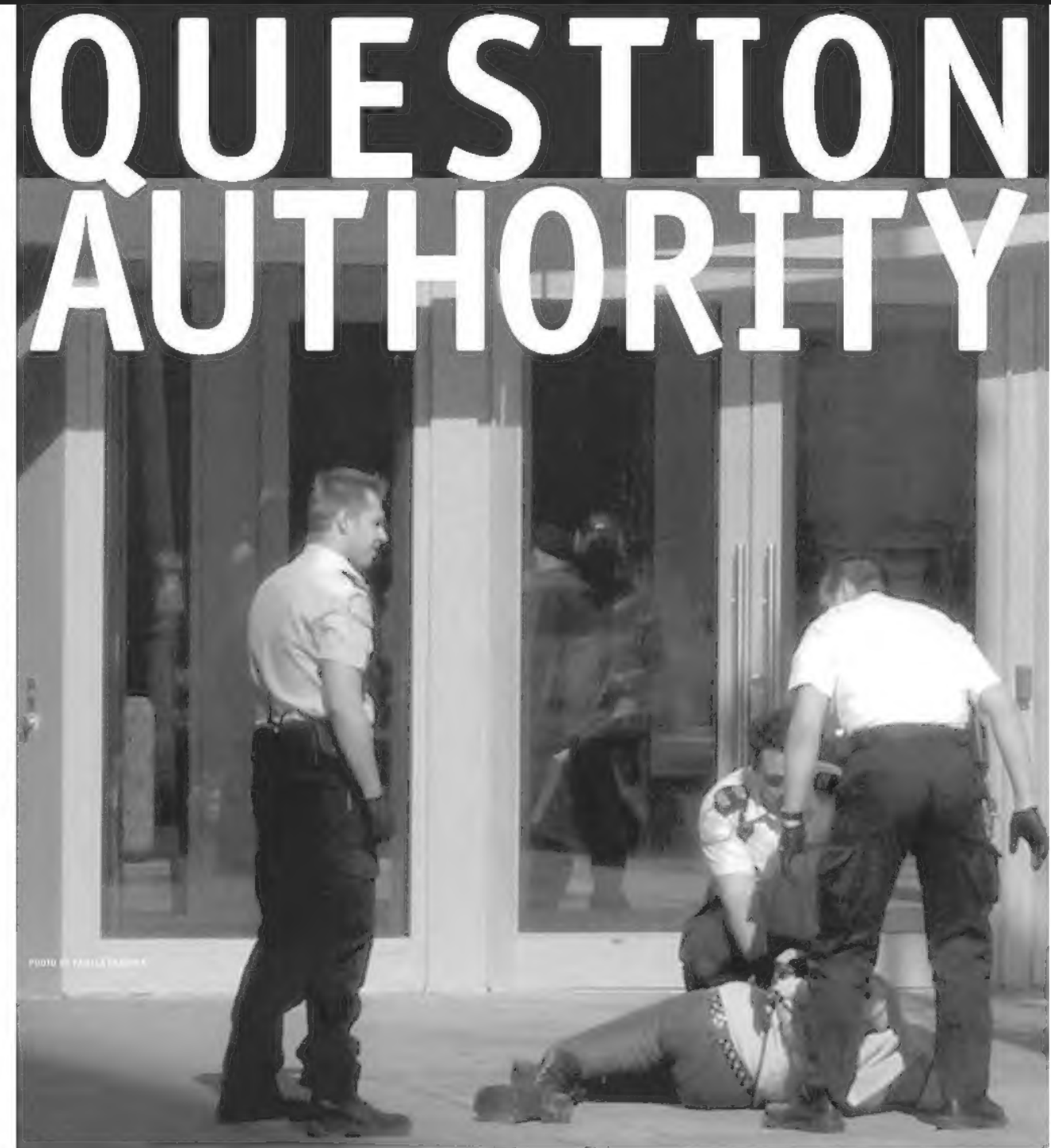
THIS WEEK’S SPORTS FLOP

If your New Year’s resolution includes holding the mayo when you make your favourite sandwich, you’re not alone. USC will be holding the Mayo right along with you — O.J. Mayo that is. The former Trojan basketball star has his old team in some hot water after Mayo and company violated NCAA regulations. Those violations have led to USC banning the current team from postseason play this year to go along with other sanctions.

Here at the Gateway, we recruit only the best of the best to write for our team. That’s why you’ve been selected to come on up to a sports meeting every Thursday on the third floor of SUB at 4 p.m.



GATEWAY SPORTS: MAKING A HELL OF A SANDWICH SINCE 1910



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Canadian hockey fans aren't sheep, Pepsi



NICK
FROST

Sports
Commentary

Tonight, the floodlights will burn out on yet another spell-binding World Junior Hockey Championship. Canada and the United States are set to face off in what will inevitably be another gripping iteration of the two nations' border war for bragging rights and precious gold. But while tonight's gold medal game will bring an end to the tournament, many Canadians hope that PepsiCo's pointless endeavour to try to inject pride and loud noises into an already batshit-insane hockey nation will die with it.

In the months leading up to the World Juniors, PepsiCo — in conjunction with Hockey Canada, sadly — rolled out an ad campaign across Canadian airwaves for fans to compose a chant that everyone would magically adhere to when cheering on our intrepid young lads. Complete with a commercial that features enough large buzzwords on flashing blue and red backgrounds to give healthy individuals epileptic fits, the winning chant "Eh O' Canada Go!" was selected from thousands of submissions. Apparently there are a thousand different ways to basically say the more common "Go Canada Go!"

On the surface, this entire maelstrom of questionable marketing decisions appears to be nothing more than thinly veiled hyper-patriotism.

And that's exactly what it is. None of the great minds responsible for this project at PepsiCo, using their common sense, could possibly think that any sports fan needs to be given advice on how to verbally support their team. Especially in Canada, where hockey serves as a religion to more people than Christianity and Atheism combined.

Regardless of how much Pepsi tries to cram those four words down the collective throat of Canadians, only to have us gag them back up within the confines of a hockey arena, the majority of the people in this country will resist.

Regardless of how much Pepsi tries to cram those four words down the collective throat of Canadians, only to have us gag them back up within the confines of a hockey arena, the majority of people in this country will resist. Aside from die-hards already expressing their distaste on hockey forums, a number of Facebook groups have been erected in opposition to the chant, with one group already boasting just under 13,000 members in a few short weeks.

Hockey Canada also deserves to bear some of the shame in this national travesty, as well. I understand that

this is all part of the corporate game and they're just trying to make some money to support their programs and all that whimsical crap, but they're insulting a nation of hockey-fanatical men and women by supporting an initiative that essentially says "you're doing it wrong, here's the correct way to cheer for Team Canada."

Unfortunately for Canadians, hockey fans or not, we'll likely have to endure PepsiCo incessantly advertising this through to the Olympic Games in Vancouver. It seems like the idea behind this campaign was to use the World Juniors as a means of planting the earwig in the brains of Canadians and testing public reaction. Just the mere fact that everyone's discussing how bad the concept is — and that I'm taking time out to write about it — means that their initial phase has worked.

Beyond that, the end goal is that fans will be passionately banding together to let out this boisterous chant in Vancouver come February. Remember, Pepsi isn't the official sugary brown liquid of the Olympic Games — Coca-Cola is. Therefore, Pepsi has to keep themselves relevant in the minds of the public during that time, in order to compete with Coca-Cola bringing in a huge stream of revenue.

Fortunately, Canadians have the ultimate say in whether or not we hear "Eh O' Canada Go!" roaring from the nearly 19,000 patrons on hand at Hockey Canada Place throughout the Olympic men's hockey tournament. At least for the time being, thankfully, it seems like most Canadians will meet PepsiCo's "Eh O' Canada Go!" with a resounding "Eh O' Canada No."

sportsshorts

Compiled by Evan Daum

Bears Hockey

The Hockey Bears head into the second half of the season atop the Canada West standings, after posting an impressive 14-1-1 conference mark to open the campaign.

Over the break, the Bears welcomed the McGill Redmen to town for a pair of non-conference matches on December 28 and 29. The Green and Gold got all they could handle from the number-six ranked Redmen, but skated away with a pair of thrilling one-goal wins.

Defenceman Kyle Fecho lifted the Bears to a 5-4 come-from-behind win in the opener, netting the winner with less than a second to play in the third. Fellow defenceman Colin Joe provided the overtime heroics in the second game, scoring the winner to give Alberta a 6-5 win.

The Bears kick off the second half this weekend in a home-and-home series against Calgary.

Bears Basketball

After posting a 5-5 conference record in the first half, Greg Francis' squad came out on the wrong end of a trio of decisions in December against U.S. opponents. Alberta travelled to Montana for non-conference games against Montana Tech, the University of Great Falls, and Montana State.

The Hoop Bears' mini-tour of the Treasure State stretched from December 19-21, with Alberta opening the trip in Butte against the Tech Diggers, losing by a score of 82-59. The Green and Gold then travelled to Great Falls to take on UGF, losing a close contest by a score of 79-76, before ending the trip against MSU in Bozeman, Montana with a 72-50 loss.

Francis and company head to B.C. this weekend to take on Simon Fraser and Trinity Western to open the second half.

Pandas Basketball

The Pandas Basketball team played three games of their own over the break, as they headed to Saskatoon to take part in the Huskie Invitational from December 30-31.

Alberta opened the tournament against Laurentian University out of Sudbury, Ontario with a tight 68-66 overtime victory, before dropping their second game of the tournament to Saskatchewan 74-60, as the Huskies went on to win the tournament with a perfect 3-0 mark.

Sitting at 6-4, Alberta enters the second half of the season two games back of division-leading Regina.

Marissa Haylett and Emily Bolduc continued their strong campaigns, leading the Pandas in scoring over the two games, with Haylett netting 27 against Laurentian, and Bolduc with 14 against the Huskies.

The Pandas open 2010 on the road against SFU and TWU this weekend.

Bears Volleyball

The Volley-Bears are the lone team that was idle in game-action over the break, with their last games coming in November when they split a series on the road against Saskatchewan to end the first half.

That loss in Saskatoon was the Huskies first win over Alberta since 2004.

The defending CIS champs have been solid, but not spectacular thus far with a 7-3 conference record, good for a three-way tie atop the standings and a top-10 national ranking.

The Bears open the new year with a pair of games against TWU January 8-9 in Langley, B.C.

Don't worry, you're not too late.

The Gateway welcomes volunteers all year long.

Section meetings are held in the Gateway offices: Room 3-04, SUB.

Arts & Entertainment:
Tuesdays at 4pm

Opinion:
Tuesdays at 5pm

Comics/Illustration:
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Sports:
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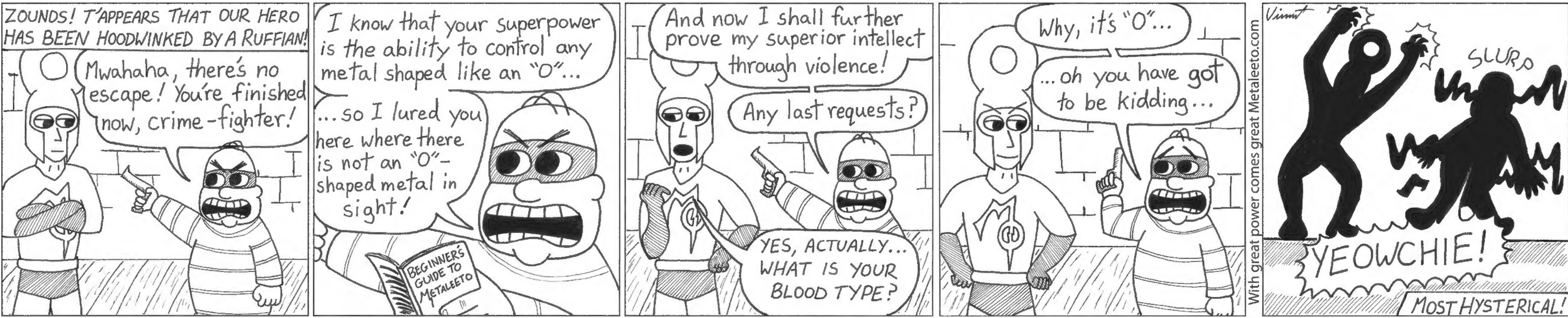
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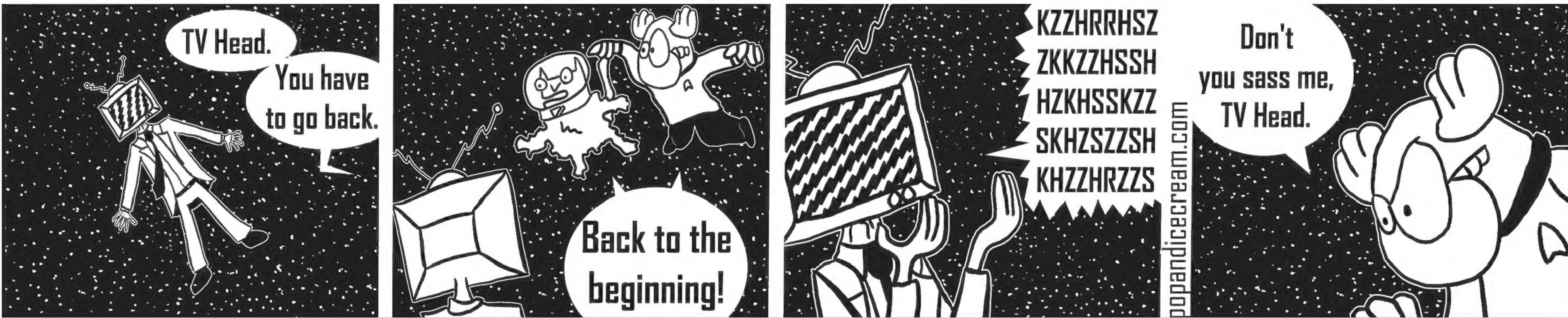
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MINOR ISSUES

What's the big deal about Avatar anyways? Sure, everyone seems to be freaking out about how great it was, but what I don't understand is why anyone went to see it in the first place. The trailer told you absolutely nothing. It was all, "OMG BLUE THINGS RUNNING!" and that was it. But everyone's gone to see it somehow and can't seem to shut up about how great it is. You know what I like in a movie? A discernable plot. Okay, okay, I guess it's about destroying the environment and how that's a really bad thing, but you know what? If I want to watch *Ferngully* I'll do it without blue things that bleed CGI from their eyeballs. I mean *Ferngully* had Tim Curry, Robin Williams, Cheech and Chong. You can't go wrong with that.



PETE YEE

CHECKED OUT The Rutherford Library, empty as it will get for the next four months, prepares for an influx of students. Those lights will likely go on at some point.

entourage

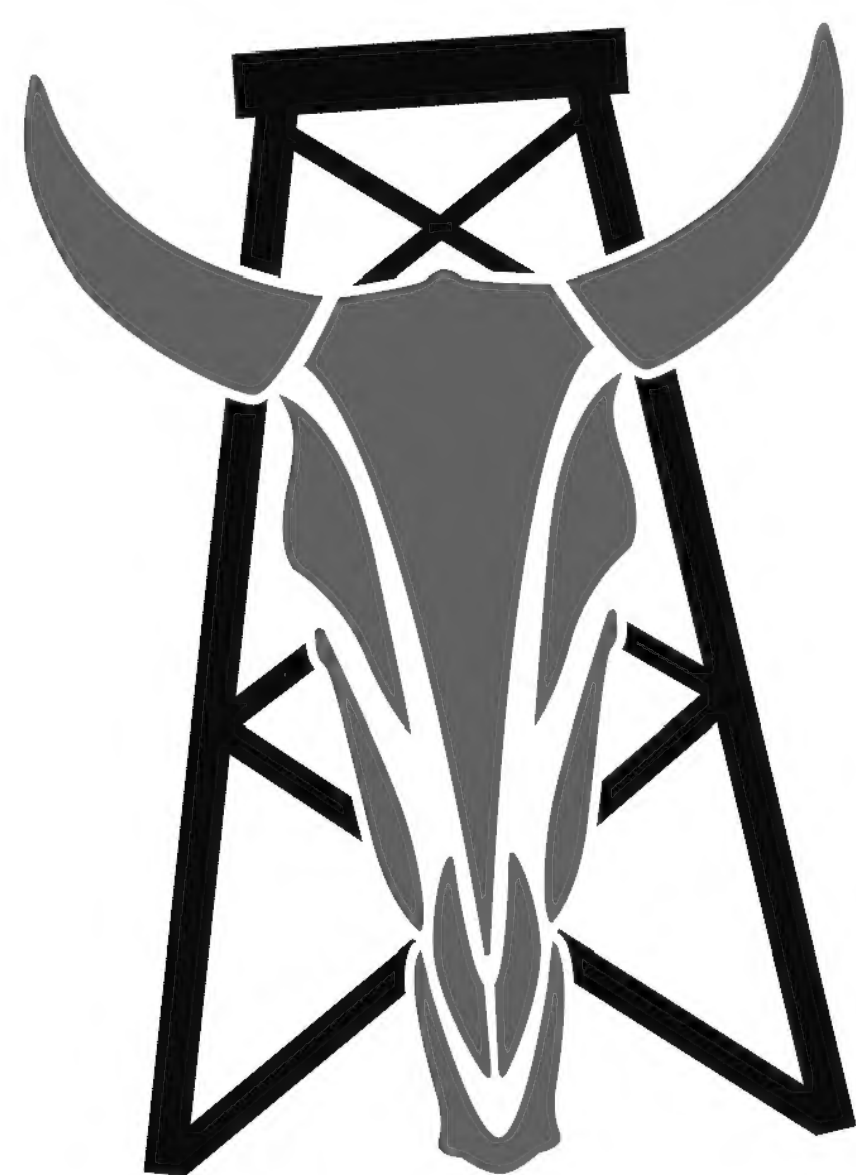
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